

Emergency Responders and Contact Lists

When any type of emergency or disaster occurs, we can count on countless emergency responders to come to assist us. In any situation, emergency responders are trained to assist with multiple aspects of recovery. During weather emergencies, it is critical that anyone who may need to contact an emergency responder, knows how to do so and who to call.

Emergency responders include first responders (police, fire department, and ambulance), but also include the National Guard, Federal Emergency Management Agency, (FEMA), local Emergency Management Agencies (local EMAs), American Red Cross, poison control center, the public health office, and mental health hotlines. Obviously, not every type of emergency responder is needed in every type of emergency. However, nearly every type of emergency requires different responders working with each other and non-responders, such as the National Weather Service, in order to handle each situation and to keep people safe.

It is important that in your emergency/disaster kit at home that you have access to these points of contact. It is also important that your school have a list of emergency contacts that are able to come help you if needed in not only weather emergencies, but all types of emergencies.

In major weather emergencies, it is better to stay off the phone lines unless you are truly in need of help. Storm reports, letting your parents know you are okay, etc. can be done via text or e-mail, which allows the phone lines to stay open for emergencies.

This activity will allow you to learn more about different types of emergency responders and important contacts for you and your school to have on emergency contact lists.



Logos of some of the many possible emergency contacts on your school's or home's emergency contact list.



1. Below is a list of various possible emergency contacts. Place a check mark in the box next to the following contacts that you think should be on your school’s emergency contact list and/or on your home’s contact list. Remember, these contact lists should include non-weather emergency contacts.

Contact	School Emergency Contact List	Home Emergency Contact List
9-1-1		
Police Department		
Fire Department		
Ambulance/EMS		
Poison Control Center		
Local Emergency Management Agencies		
FEMA		
Mental Health/Suicide Hotline		
Local Hospitals		
Utility Companies		
Local Department of Public Works		
Local National Weather Service		
Public Health Office		
American Red Cross		
Your Parents Cell Phone Numbers		
School Superintendent		
School Principal		

2. What additional contacts do you think should be on your school’s emergency contact list?
3. What additional contacts do you think should be on your home’s emergency contact list?



Keeping the chart on the last page in mind, please answer the following questions.

6. You are home on a rainy Sunday. You hear on the TV that a Severe Thunderstorm Watch was issued for your area. About ten minutes later, a large tree falls in your backyard on your little brother's swing set. However, it did not land on any power or other utility lines. You know the tree had survived some fairly strong winds before. Who should you call and why?
 - a. Your parents, because you want to let them know what happened but that you are safe.
 - b. The National Weather Service, because you want to report the strong wind and fallen tree. It might be of interest to them.
 - c. 9-1-1, because this requires immediate emergency response.
 - d. Utility Company, you want to inform them that the power line is untouched.
 - e. Local Emergency Management Agency, because you want someone to look your backyard immediately.

7. You are home on a stormy day and Severe Thunderstorm Warning is issued for your area. You decide to go into your basement for safety. As you grab your cell phone from the table, you notice hail the quarter-size falling. Five minutes later, while you are in shelter, your older brother walks into the shelter. He is holding his head, while saying the hail is as big as baseballs. He looks dizzy and is having difficulty walking. He then collapses on the ground. You called your mom immediately and it went straight to voicemail. Who do you call now and why?
 - a. The National Weather Service, because this hail might hurt someone else and you want them to issue more warnings.
 - b. 9-1-1, because your brother is seriously hurt and needs immediate medical attention.
 - c. FEMA, because you think there are more people that need help besides your brother.
 - d. Public Health Office, because you want them to care about your brother.
 - e. American Red Cross, because you want to inform them of an injury.

8. Which of the following could be a reason to call the Poison Control Center?
 - a. You accidentally drank spoiled milk.
 - b. You want to know more about a Severe Thunderstorm Watch.
 - c. Your sister got paint on the floor.
 - d. You lost power.
 - e. You accidentally ingested window cleaner.



9. Imagine you are a school principal. A Tornado Warning is issued for your area and you use the PA system to instruct everyone in building to quickly move to shelter and that you are activating your school's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). As you move toward the EOC, you look out the window and see a funnel cloud off in the distance moving away from the school toward a farm area. When you get to your EOC and look at the radar, you see the worst of the storm moving away from the school, but decide to keep everyone in shelter because there is still some heavy rain and a tornado warning for your area. Who do you call and why?
- The National Weather Service, because you want to report that you saw a funnel cloud moving away from the building.
 - Local Emergency Management Agency, because they need to know that everyone in the building is safe.
 - School Superintendent, to inform him that all students and staff are in shelter and will remain there until the warning is lifted.
 - No one. You decide to e-mail all three of the above from your smartphone, because you don't want to tie up the phone lines.
10. Imagine you are watching television. During a commercial break, your local television meteorologist comes on screen to inform you that your area is under a severe thunderstorm warning. You get up and open the blinds to see how close the system is. You open them and see dark rotating clouds, heavy rain, and very strong winds. You decide to go to shelter in your basement. Right before you shut the blinds again, you see hail about the size of ping pong balls falling. You note the time and go into your basement. Who do you call and why?
- FEMA, because you want the President to declare a disaster declaration.
 - Your local emergency management agency, because you need special assistance.
 - Your local National Weather Service office, because you wish to report the significant hail in your area.
 - 9-1-1, because you think the hail may have hurt someone near you
11. On the next page, fill out the emergency contact sheet and bring it home and add to your home's emergency kit.

In the blank space below the lines, write in any other contact you feel you should have on your home's emergency contact list, using the lists you created in questions 1 and 3.



EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST

First Responders: **9-1-1**

Police: _____

Fire Department: _____

Ambulance/EMS: _____

Parent Cell Numbers: _____

National Weather Service: _____

Poison Control Center: _____

Other important numbers:

