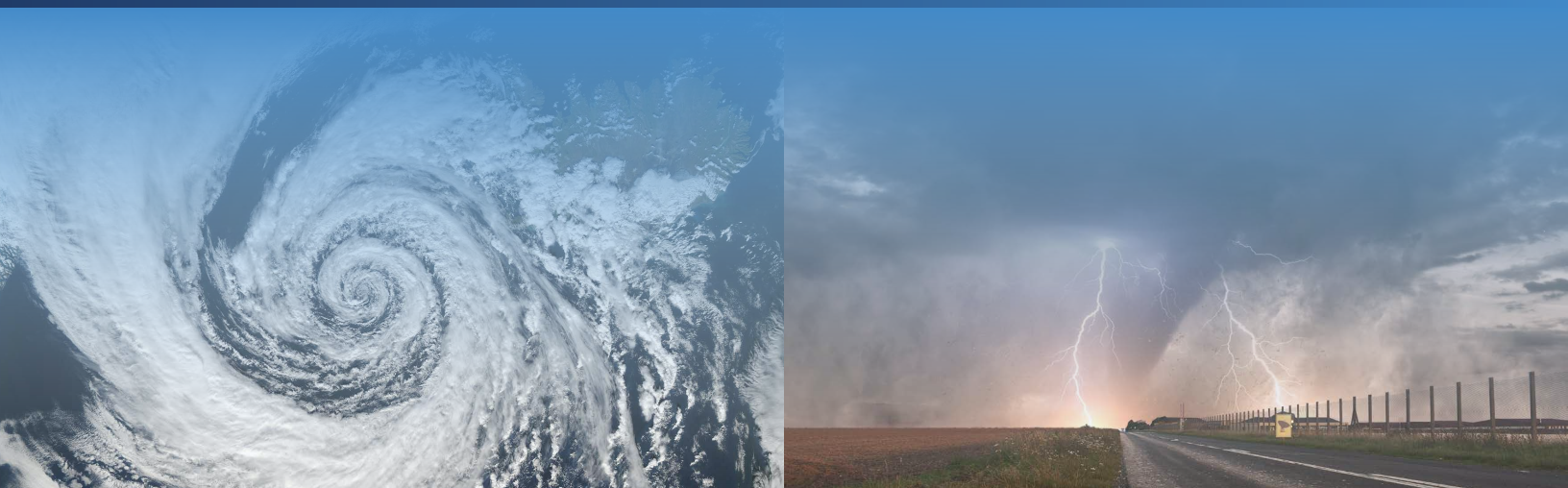
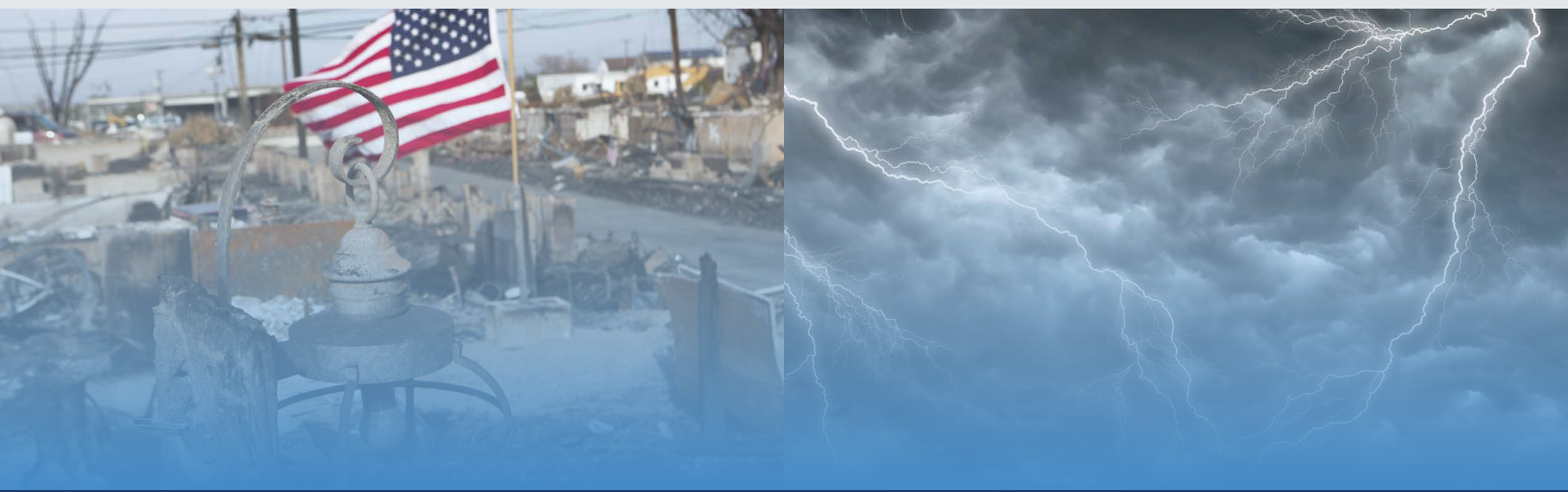


Disaster Preparedness



Are Your Communications Disaster Response Ready?



Preparing for communications challenges is essential to any emergency preparedness checklist. During a catastrophe, you need to stay connected with first responders, disaster relief crews, and your community. Make sure you're properly equipped for hurricane season or any disaster that may impact your community by referencing the checklist herein

Disaster Preparedness Checklist

- 1 **A Surplus of Two-Way Radios:** Prepare for needing at least 15% more two-way radios than you currently have to give to assisting agencies and volunteers.
- 2 **Two-Way Radio Chargers and Antennas:** Plan on having 15% more radio chargers and antennas as well.
- 3 **Programming Cables:** Many radios can't be programmed over the air, but need to be connected by cable to a computer in order to make talkgroups. Again, the 15% more rule applies in this case.
- 4 **Software Updates:** Don't be caught with radios that don't work during and after a disaster because you didn't make necessary software updates. Check with MCA to see what your radio systems need to function properly.
- 5 **Replacement Parts:** Make sure you have the necessary replacement parts for all your communication equipment.
- 6 **Check Fuel Generators:** Test and fuel generators for at least 8 hours. Controller boards tend to fail after a few hours if and when they have power distribution issues.
- 7 **Test Coastal Alerting Systems:** Any near-shore community knows that they need mass notification systems to alert the public of dangerous weather conditions. test them regularly to make sure they are operating as intended. If your systems need an update, [click here](#) to learn more.
- 8 **Verify Spare Equipment:** Take stock of spare equipment, antennas, and line infrastructure boards to ensure you have the correct versions of each.
- 9 **Prep Site-On-Wheels:** Locate any site-on-wheels in the area and place them on standby. Contact Your Crews: Reach out to local tower crews for any post-storm restorations.
- 10 **Line Up Your Technicians:** Identify any technicians outside the disaster zone who can help in disaster recovery efforts.
- 11 **Contact All PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points):** Connect with all the public safety supervisors and managers in your area to ensure they have what they need.
- 12 **Contact Your EOCs (Emergency Operations Centers):** Make sure your emergency operations centers are well-stocked with water, snacks, and other non-perishable food items.
- 13 **Stock Up on Portable Networking Devices:** Connectivity devices such as the TRaCK Box provide users a portable and rapidly deployable network to temporarily reestablish communications after a disaster has struck

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