

Emergency Communications

FUN FACT: Your cell phone won't work during a disaster!

BARELY GOOD

FRS (Family Radio Service)

- No test or license required.
- Simple radio configuration.
- Radios start at \$20. Bubble pack "Walkie Talkies"
- Fixed antenna.
- Limited to 22 shared channels (frequencies).
- Radios range from ¼ to 2 miles.
- Radios limited to ½ to 2 watts.



BETTER

GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service)

- No test required. Simple radio configuration.
- \$35 FCC license for entire family good for 10 years.
- Radios start at \$30. Detachable antenna.
- Limited to 22 shared channels (frequencies).
8 of these can be used with repeaters.
- Handheld radios range from 1 to 3 miles. (5 watts)
- Mobile radios range from 10-30+ miles. (50 watts)



BEST

HAM (Amateur Radio)

- Test required. Must get at least 26/35 ?'s correct. Not that hard. Use www.HamStudy.org
- Handheld radios start at \$30.
- Huge range of frequencies, radios, antennas, etc.
- Communicate around the world on HF.
- Assist with communications during a disaster.
- Fun hobby. Meet new people.



BONUS

MESHTASTIC (Small radios for off-grid texting)

- No license required. Devices start at \$30
- Pair radio with phone/tablet/PC via bluetooth to send encrypted messages.
- No cellular connection or internet required.
- New and emerging technology. www.Meshtastic.org

