

RADIO READY?

5 Checks Before the Next Emergency

1. Power Ready?

- Is your PRS radio charged today?
- Do you have backup power (spare batteries, solar, hand-crank, 12V charger)?
- For long-term power supply, we recommend the Nitecore FSP30 folding USB solar panel paired with a USB battery bank — the FSP30 charges the battery bank during the day, and the battery bank charges your radio at night.

Answer this: If power was out for 72 hours, would you be ready?

2. Communication Plan in Place?

- Do you know your primary and backup channels (simplex and repeater)?
- When are your local radio nets? Regular practice builds confidence and radio fluency. Reach out to your Radio Area Coordinator or email radionetwork@rebuildfree.com for details.
- Do you understand local emergency monitoring protocols, ie which channels, which times? Keep battery life in mind.
- Do you have a printed copy of the RFRN Emergency Protocol? Email radionetwork@rebuildfree.com for a copy.

Answer this: If phones failed now, who would you call first?

3. Know Your Local Radio Users?

- Which neighbours have radios? Do you have a simplex call buddy?
- What equipment and range do they have?
- Are there amateur (ham) operators nearby? They may or may not be in your PRS group.

- Keep a notebook with names, call signs, locations, and working channels. This gives you a transportable, hard copy of important info.
- Are you linked with your local Community Response Group (CRG)? You may need assistance, or may be able to provide assistance.

Ask yourself: Could your street or area communicate without mobile phones? (This may mean walking, biking, or driving to pass information.)

4. Tested Your Range?

- Do you know your signal limits and dead zones?
- Have you tested from different locations?
- Can you relay messages through others? Does your area have a plan?

Ask yourself: Where are your communication gaps?

5. Clear & Simple Communication

- Keep transmissions calm and brief. Speak slowly.
- State call sign, location, and your particular need clearly.
- Write down emergency messages and times sent. (AREC reporting protocol.)
- Use plain language.
- Coordinate shared resources efficiently, eg water, generators, help, rescue.

Ask yourself: Could I clearly communicate under pressure, without referring to instructions? Practice makes perfect, be prepared.

Final Check

If an emergency happened tonight — are you ready to communicate?