

USING FRS WALKIE TALKIES IN A DISASTER SITUATION

When building your emergency kit for a hurricane, flood or similar disaster event, go to a hardware, sporting goods, or similar retail store and buy some FRS (Family Radio Service) walkie-talkies.

Keep at least three sets of high quality alkaline batteries on hand for each radio. Rechargeable batteries cannot be charged if your electricity goes out.

Tune your radio to a clear channel and turn OFF all privacy codes (the second number should read 0 or 00). Practice using the walkie talkies with your family and neighbors under normal conditions. Plan what you are going to say and do in different situations. This will help prepare you for a disaster.

If you find yourself in need of assistance during an emergency in which landline or cell phones are inoperative, your FRS walkie talkie may be heard by rescuers in your area.

Keep extra FRS walkie talkies and spare alkaline batteries in your home, boat and car.



In a REAL emergency, follow these 3 steps:

- 1) Turn on your FRS walkie talkie and set it to Channel 1.** Broadcast from an outside location or an upper floor of your home when possible. Wait for a break in activity on the channel, depress the push-to-talk button. Say your name, your exact location, and the nature of your emergency. If time permits, concentrate your transmission at the top of the hour.
- 2) State your emergency two times.** Say, for example: "Emergency! This is John Smith. I am trapped inside my home at 1234 Main Street....over." Pause for 15 to 30 seconds and repeat if necessary.
- 3) Listen for 3 minutes for an answer.** If you don't hear one, save your batteries by turning off your walkie talkie. Wait for a time or until the top of the next hour to call again.

It's as easy as **1... 2... 3...**

Call on channel **1** every hour. State your emergency and location twice. Listen for **3** minutes. Keep channel **1** open for emergency calls. Use other channels for non-emergency or neighborhood coordination purposes.

For more details on the Family Radio Service (FRS), visit <http://wireless.fcc.gov/services>