



Emergency alerts and staying informed

Knowing how official warnings reach you, and having a way to hear them without power or internet, can buy precious time. This page covers phone alerts, radios, official channels and avoiding rumours.

CHECKLIST

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| ☐ Battery or wind-up radio | ☐ Car phone charger |
| ☐ Spare batteries | ☐ Paper list of emergency numbers and radio frequencies |
| ☐ Charged power bank | |

PREPARE

- Find out how your country sends emergency alerts to phones.
- Keep a battery, solar, wind-up or car radio so you can follow news in a power cut.
- Note your local emergency radio frequencies on your paper contact list.
- Sign up for official weather and flood warnings where they are offered.
- Charge phones and power banks when a storm or disruption is forecast.
- Keep your phone software up to date.

USE AND MAINTAIN

- Stop what you are doing when an alert sounds and follow its instructions.
- If driving, pull over somewhere safe and legal before reading an alert.
- Follow updates from local authorities on radio, TV and official websites.
- Confirm serious news with official government sources before acting.
- Be wary of posts that provoke strong emotions, and share only trusted information.
- Check facts against more than one source.

REVIEW

- Keep listening to official channels until authorities say the danger has passed.
- Recharge devices and replace radio batteries once power returns.
- Check on neighbours and relatives and pass on official information.
- Sign up for any local weather, flood or air quality alerts you were missing.

IN THE UAE

The UAE National Early Warning System, launched in 2017, sends phone alerts about dangerous weather with safety steps. NCEMA, the Ministry of Interior, the seven emirates' police and the Ministry of Health and Prevention can send them. National numbers: 999 police, 998 ambulance, 997 fire department (civil defence).

MY NOTES

Sources: UK Government (Prepare), Alerts and warnings (<https://prepare.campaign.gov.uk/get-prepared-for-emergencies/alerts/>); Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency (MCF), Access to communication during a crisis (<https://www.mcf.se/en/advice-for-individuals/home-preparedness--prepping-for-at-least-a-week/access-to-communication-during-a-crisis/>); UK Government (Prepare), Get prepared for emergencies (<https://prepare.campaign.gov.uk/get-prepared-for-emergencies/>); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Before, During, and After an Emergency (<https://www.cdc.gov/childrenindisasters/helping-children-cope.html>); Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency (MCF), Psychological defence (<https://www.mcf.se/en/advice-for-individuals/swedish-defence/psychological-defence/>); UAE Government Portal (u.ae), Handling emergencies (<https://u.ae/en/information-and-services/justice-safety-and-the-law/handling-emergencies>); Gulf News (report of Abu Dhabi Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Centre guidance, updated 4 May 2026), Heard an emergency alert while shopping, driving, or out in public? How to respond immediately (<https://gulfnews.com/uae/heard-an-emergency-alert-while-shopping-driving-or-out-in-public-act-immediately-1.500488338>)

General guidance in our own words. Always follow your local authorities.