The Out-of-Area contact is one of the most important concepts in your disaster plan. When disaster occurs, you will be concerned about the welfare of your loved ones.

In a disaster, local telephone service may be disrupted. However, long distance lines, because they are routed many different ways out of your community, may be open. It is also important to remember that the telephone company’s emergency telephone network is the pay telephone system. They will restore it before the rest of the system. So, if you have change to make a pay telephone call and an out-of-area contact, you may be able to communicate with loved ones in the disaster area indirectly through your out-of-area contact.

Ask an out-of-area friend or relative to be your family contact. Make sure everyone in your family has their phone number and understands the procedures for communication after a disaster has occurred.

Name __________________________
City __________________________
Telephone (day) __________________________
Telephone (evening) __________________________
E-mail address: __________________________

Alternate Family Contact
Name __________________________
City __________________________
Telephone (day) __________________________
Telephone (evening) __________________________
E-mail address: __________________________

Communication Procedures
1. Identify yourself
2. Explain what has happened
3. Relate how everyone is
4. Explain what you plan to do