



# July Tip of The Month

## Texting Can Be a Lifeline During a Disaster

### Communicating

During a disaster, phone lines can be damaged or become jammed and wireless networks often become overwhelmed and are unable to handle voice calls. However, text messages usually get through due to their relatively few “bytes” of data. Because of this, text messaging is fast becoming the best way people can communicate.



### Make Texting Part of Your Emergency Plan

In a recent poll, only 8% of Americans said they would rely on text messaging to communicate during a disaster despite it being the most reliable form of communication in such an event. Now is the time to educate all members of your family that text messaging is a key in communication in the event of an earthquake or other disaster.

#### Add these steps to your emergency plan:

- **Prepare:** Most phones with texting capabilities are easy to use and learn. People new to text messaging, shouldn't wait for an emergency to learn. Review the directions for text messaging in the owner's manual or on the carrier's web site.
- **Pre-Program:** Enter the wireless phone numbers of people to contact in an emergency.
- **Plan:** Let people know to look for a text message on their cellular phones.
- **Practice:** Send test messages until comfortable. Ask others to send you test messages. Practice so that users won't forget or be flustered texting in a stressful situation.\*



\* From - Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association