

What to do Before a Communications Outage

Good news, everybody! Your Sun City Summerlin (SCS) Amateur Radio Operators (hams) can deliver messages to your loved ones when phone and Internet service are out. There are a few things SCS residents should do before a communications outage to make this service much smoother.

Make A List

Pick three to five people that can get the word out. Between them, people on you list should know most of the people who might be worried about you when you can't reach you by phone or email.

People on your list should NOT live in Sun City Summerlin. In fact, it's best if they live a couple of states away. The idea here is that people that are far enough away will be outside the affected area and will be easy to reach by others outside the affected area.

Gather Email Addresses

Now that you've decided on the people, it's time to make a list of their email addresses. Print this list out and keep it in your go bag. Put copies other places that will be easy to reach and remember when things a getting hectic. Having a copy of the list on a USB drive is also a good idea.

Inform Your Contacts

Let everyone on your list know that if there is ever a communications emergency that affects SCS you will do your best to send them a health and welfare message by Amateur Radio. Also let them know if they can pass your message on to others.

When the SCS hams send health and welfare messages on your behalf, they won't come from your email address. The from address may be SCS@WINLINK.ORG, W7SCS@WINLINK.ORG, or maybe some other address from WINLINK.ORG. Have them put these address in their email address book. It lets their spam filters know these funny looking addresses are something they want to see.

Warn them that it will be very difficult to get replies back to you and you will send updates, as you can, when your status changes.

Test The System

Send email to suncityamateurs@gmail.com. Include your name and the names and email addresses in your list. Your email could look something like this:

SCS Hams,

Please send a practice email to my out of town emergency contacts. They are:

Joe Smith, joe@example.com

Bobbie Garcia, bobbie@example.com

Beth Chan, chan@example.com

Thanks!

Veronica

One of us will send each of your contact an email. It will look something like this:

Bobbie,

Veronica asked us, the Sun City Summerlin (SCS) Amateur Radio Operators (hams) to send you an email via Winlink.

Please put our Winlink email address in your contacts. If there is ever a time when phones and Internet are unavailable in Sun City, Veronica may ask us to send you a health and welfare message over Winlink and Amateur Radio. We don't want messages from us getting flagged as spam by you email system.

Please let Veronica know you received this email.

Stay prepared,

SCS Hams

SCS@WINLINK.ORG

suncityamateurs@gmail.com