

Home Communications in a Blackout

WORKS WITH NO POWER OR BATTERIES



Copper Landline - *can fail if lines burn*

- power comes from the Frontier Central Office in town that has power backup
- runs along the poles and is sturdier than the electric lines, but can still burn
- poorly maintained, & many report that rain can take it out for a week
- hard to get installed or reinstalled
- your answering machine will NOT work, so you have to be there to hear Alerts



Cell Service Hotspots

- Top o' Topanga- via Cell Towers
- Summit to Summit (Old Topanga Cyn) - via Cell Towers
- Topanga Cyn Blvd - via Cell Repeaters
- Neighbors with backup power - via femtocell bubbles or WiFi Internet



AM/FM Radio - *listen only, hand-crank, car radio*

KNX AM

NEEDS BATTERIES



Non-Copper Landline - *can fail if lines burn*

- most folks have a battery on the “box” that keeps this up from 1-8 hours



Cell Phone via Fiber/Cable Internet - *can fail if lines burn*

- Frontier Central Office in town, backed up by generators
- Spectrum Central Office in Malibu; during the Woolsey Fire Spectrum customers lost service



Cell Phone via Satellite Internet - *CANNOT BURN*

- for the Hardcore: only an intergalactic wildfire will take this out
- basic set up for backup costs about the same as copper landline service
- we have one from HughesNet, and recently added one from Starlink.



Two-Way Radios - *listen & transmit*

- FRS - neighborhood walkie-talkies & can hear TCEP in some neighborhoods
- HAM - need a license to transmit; can LISTEN to fire dept. & TCEP “Top of the Hour”