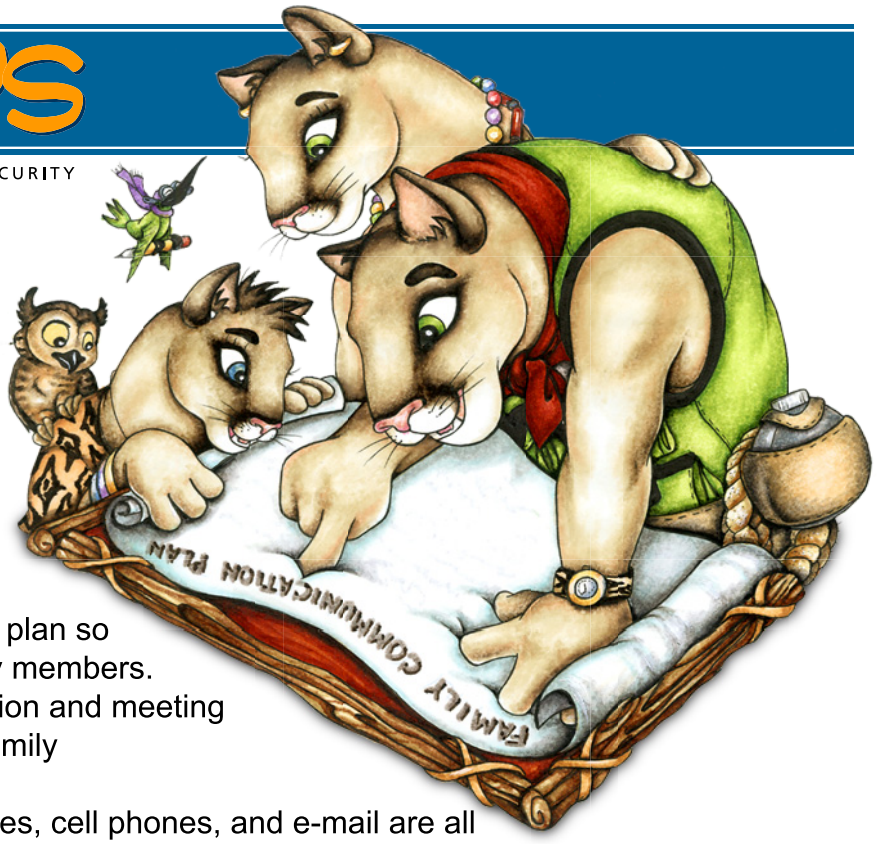
READY KIDS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

COMMUNICATE!



C Create a family communication plan so you can get in touch with family members. Give copies of contact information and meeting locations to everyone in your family

O Options are available: telephones, cell phones, and e-mail are all great ways to get in touch with family members.

M Make sure you know the emergency plan at your child's school.

M Make a decision about where you will meet in case you can't get home during an emergency.

U Understand that it may take time to get through to everyone. Try to be patient.

N Needs of your pets should be kept in mind. Keep a pet carrier for easy transport.

I Inform yourself. Watch news broadcasts, read online news updates, or listen to a battery-operated radio for official guidance during an emergency, but also prepare in advance.

C Copies of your emergency plan should be in your emergency supply kit in case you need to leave in a hurry.

A Ask kids to discuss their concerns and feelings. Do they understand the family plan?

T Take the kids to visit the 'meeting spots' so that they are familiar and feel comfortable finding them on their own if necessary.

E Emergencies take many forms. Categorize different types of emergencies and discuss the level of concern related to each and how that is reflected in your family plan.