

# Text First. Talk Second.

**A**ll of us love to talk on our cell phones. But during an emergency, it can be wiser to text.

That's because texting takes less band width than a digital voice call. And, when voice calls are interrupted, you may still be able to get a text message completed.

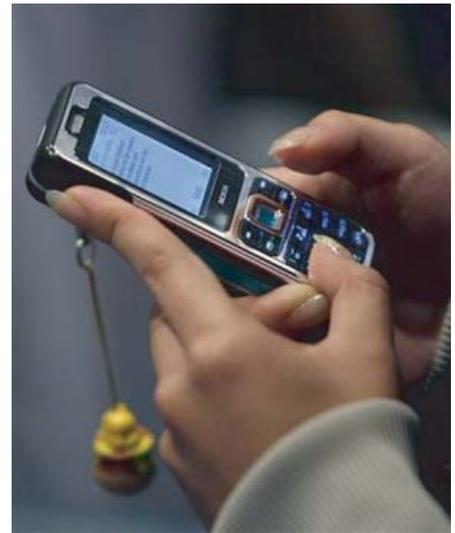
To help my state and others absorb this important message, I am inviting First Spouses around the country in launching a campaign this September during National Preparedness Month to have people remember in emergencies, it's wise to 'Text First, Talk Second.'

As we saw in Haiti and during Katrina, some text messages can get through, even when a voice connection can't be made. And by waiting to talk later, you can leave more telecommunications 'space' open for others who may need to get important messages through.

This September 11, practice with your family how you'd get back in touch during an emergency. Plan to conduct a family drill in which you send a text message to each member of the family and ask them 'RUOK.' Then have them reply with a simple IMOK (which is 4665 on your phone dial keypad). If you don't know how to text, have your teenager (or someone tech savvy) teach you the basics.

All Americans need to know how to contact others after an emergency, and by learning how to text, you can have a new tool that will connect you quickly, even if you can't get a voice message through!

Texting— It can be a life-saving tool when used properly. But also remember: don't text while driving. If you want to text while traveling, do what I do: Exit 2 Text it!



Gayle C. Manchin  
Co-Chair of Safe America's  
Text First. Talk Second.  
Campaign



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