

# 4. PLAYING TELEPHONE

## Developing a telephone backup system

### WHY ACT?

Should an emergency disrupt telephone service, loss of communication with family and emergency personnel are critical concerns. Still, there are a few important things you can do to be prepared.

### PREPAREDNESS ACTION

Step 1: Identify at least one phone in your home that doesn't require electricity to work. The more options you have available, the better prepared you'll be. (Note: cordless phones require electricity).

Option 1: A non-electric phone.

Option 2: A cell phone and an extra battery. Non-electric charger.

Option 3: A hand-held radio system. Consider this type of system if you have a critical need to stay in touch with friends or family members nearby. Hand-held radios are used by security guards and have ranges of up to a few miles.

Step 2: Choose options and make necessary purchases.

Step 3: Hold a practice session.

**NOTE:** The City's network of red emergency call boxes allow callers to reach emergency services. To find one, look for a glowing orange indicator (shaped like a can of tennis balls) on top of corner street lamps. This orange light means there is a call box located on that corner. Also, get to know where your local police precinct and fire house are located to access emergency help.

### MATERIALS

A non-electric phone and your own radio communication system if you desire.

### TIME

Up to a few hours to research and purchase any needed communication equipment, if appropriate.

### RESILIENCY GAIN

The ability to access public safety services and family members even if the phones are temporarily out of order.