

WEATHER RADIO

The most important weather safety rule of all is to know when you are at risk from hazardous weather. One of the best ways to stay informed is through a NOAA Weather Radio (NWR). NWR is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from your nearby National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day. The information broadcast on the NWR is tailored for your area. The broadcast warnings and post-event information cover all types of hazards – both natural (such as severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, and hurricanes) and environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills) – making it the perfect source for comprehensive weather and emergency information.

NWR is provided as a public service by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), part of the Department of Commerce. NWR includes more than 900 transmitters, covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and the US Pacific Territories. NWR requires a special radio receiver or scanner capable of picking up the signal.



Phillip Jones

What frequencies are NOAA Weather Radio broadcast on and how may I get a list of the frequencies in my state?

The seven NWR broadcast frequencies are 162.400 MHz, 162.425 MHz, 162.450 MHz, 162.475 MHz, 162.500 MHz, 162.525 MHz, and 162.550 MHz. NWR coverage is expanding through partnership programs with local communities. For the latest list of frequencies and transmitter locations, check the NOAA Weather Radio Web site – www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr.

How can I help my community get NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts?

The goal of the National Weather Service and emergency preparedness agencies is to expand the reach of weather radio broadcasts to cover 95 percent of the US population. Innovative partnerships between the NWS, private industry, and state and local governments are fueling this expansion. The NWS has begun a program to build grassroots support for placing NOAA Weather Radio receivers in local schools and other public gathering places. The program will center around locally formed NWR committees composed of civic-minded leaders whose main goal will be to find funding sources to place NWR receivers in schools to give administrators fast access to changing weather conditions and severe weather alerts issued by their local NWS office. You can help foster such partnerships in your community. For more information concerning developing a partnership with the NWS, contact your local weather service office.



SECONDS SAVE LIVES!

- **At Home - Be warned of approaching storms so you can seek shelter before the storm arrives!**
- **At Work - You can listen to the broadcast no matter where your workplace may be.**
- **While Traveling – It's portable and battery-powered so it can go where you go.**
- **At Play - Include a Weather Radio along with your sports equipment. Be weather-safe. Use a NOAA Weather Radio!**

Wes Tyler

Where to Buy

NOAA Weather Radio receivers can be purchased at many retail stores that sell electronic merchandise, including stand-alone electronic retail outlets, electronics departments within department stores, and some drug stores. NOAA Weather Radio receivers can also be purchased through mail order catalogs and the Internet. In addition, NOAA Weather Radio receivers are often sold by boat and marine accessory businesses since they are popular in the marine community.

What features should I look for in a NOAA Weather Radio?

There are several features to look for in a NOAA Weather Radio. The most desirable feature is an alarm tone. This allows you to have the radio turned on but quiet, listening for a special tone that is broadcast before watch and warning messages. During an emergency, National Weather Service forecasters will interrupt routine weather radio programming and send out a special tone that activates the NOAA Weather Radios in the listening area. The hearing- and vision-impaired also can get these warnings by connecting weather radios with alarm tones to other kinds of attention-getting devices like strobe lights, pagers, bed-shakers, personal computers, and text printers.

In addition, a good receiver should be able to operate on batteries during times when electrical services may be interrupted. Look for radios with an AC adapter and battery compartment. The radio should be tunable or switchable to all seven NWR frequencies. Some older models receive only three frequencies that will not work in all locations.



Who should have a NOAA Weather Radio?

Everyone – homes, schools, businesses, public gathering places, etc. Just as every establishment should have a smoke detector, every establishment should have a NOAA Weather Radio.

Example picture of radio (far left) provided by Weather Radio Store (www.weatherradiostore.com)

References:

Frequently Asked Questions about NOAA Weather Radio, www.nws.noaa.gov/pa/nwr/faq_nwr.htm