



Are You Ready?

Receiving Information in an Emergency:

NOAA WEATHER RADIOS

A Fact Sheet for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios broadcast National Weather Service (NWS) warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day. Broadcasts include weather events such as hurricanes, flash floods or tornadoes, and state and local civil emergency alerts such as chemical spills, gas line breaks, train derailments, nuclear power plant emergencies, AMBER Alerts, and local school closings where provided by cities or counties, and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) alerts and high-level state or federal emergency alerts, such as terrorist attack incidents.

Currently, text messages available on weather radios are short messages only and do not have information as complete as if listening to voice broadcasts. You may also sign up to receive brief text alerts via pager, cell phone or other

wireless devices. To get a full text message, it may be helpful to sign up for alerts that are sent to your computer via e-mail.

Many of these radios have jacks to allow you to connect to alerting devices such as a visual alert (strobe or other bright light) or tactile (vibrating) alert. Make sure the model you select has the features you need.

The following is a list of weather radios that provide text as well as audible notification. A full description can be found on the NOAA website listed for each model. There are many other models available, which may or may not include text. This list should not be considered comprehensive or an endorsement of any model, nor should exclusion be viewed as rejection of any model.

www.homesafeinc.com

HomeSafe Model 2005 HS Public Alert and Weather Alert Radio

- Receives all seven NOAA channels plus programmable specific geographic areas (SAME Technology) for reception of local public alert and weather reports.
- An alert warning signal automatically activates, sounding a siren, turning on the radio and displaying the alert description.
- Includes an alert control jack to connect the monitor to visual or tactile alerting devices (sold separately).
- Retail for approximately \$80.

www.computty.com or www.harriscomm.com

Midland WR 300 Emergency Alert Weather Radio

- Receives all seven NOAA channels plus programmable specific geographic areas (SAME Technology) for reception of local public alert and weather reports.
- Audio output jack works for headphones or external audio amplifier.
- LED displays 48 different watches or warnings.
- Backup/portable use requires 4 AA alkaline batteries (not included).
- Includes external jacks for visual or tactile alerting accessories.
- Retail for approximately \$80.

www.silentcall.com

Weather Radio Model WX-67

- Receives all seven NOAA channels plus programmable specific geographic areas (SAME Technology) for reception of local public alert and weather reports.
- LCD readout identifies the specific warning, such as a tornado watch.
- An external jack connects optional accessories for either a transmitter, vibrator, or visual alert.
- Retail for approximately \$95.

The following does not appear to provide a connecting jack for assistive alerting devices, but does provide short text messages.

www.weatherradios.com

ShareCom WRP-500

- Receives all seven NOAA channels plus programmable specific geographic areas (SAME Technology) for reception of local public alert and weather reports.
- Sets your local SAME code (county code) and local channel automatically.
- Displays alert messages and over 3,200 US county maps.
- Retail from \$60 to \$150.

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Other Radios

Traditional radios are an option for some people, who can hear a radio using a neckloop, silhouette, direct audio input or cochlear implant patch cord. Test the radio before purchasing to see which, if any, work for you. These radios do not provide text.

AM/FM/TV Radios

- Captures the audio from both radio and television broadcasts – but not cable television.
- A number of manufacturers make these radios, which range in price from \$30 or higher, depending on offered features and retailer or online distributor.



Grundig FR300 Emergency Radio with TV/Weather/AM/FM Bands (201-9118)

- Crank-powered (provides power to a rechargeable battery).
- Retail for approximately \$50.

How weather radios work

Forecasters at your local NWS weather forecast office determine a severe weather event is occurring or about to occur, or local authorities determine that a hazardous event (nuclear power plant problem, a chemical or biological accident, etc.) has occurred. The information is immediately entered into a computer and broadcast by National Weather Radio (NWR) transmitters to areas at risk. Digital

codes are added to each broadcast to identify the event (tornado, flash flood, local civil emergency, etc.) and the specific counties affected. When the warning is received, the receiver turns itself on, sounds an alarm, activates a warning light, writes a short message (TORNADO) on the display, and activates connected external devices, strobe lights, sirens, vibrators, etc.

Is my home or office covered by NWR?

Check coverage maps or station lists on the Internet by visiting <http://weather.gov/nwr> to determine if the area in which you live is covered by NWR.

Information provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (www.noaa.gov).



Questions? Comments? Contact the CEPIN Project at:

TDI • 8630 Fenton St. Suite 604 • Silver Spring, MD 20910-3822
 (301) 589-3006 TTY • (301) 589-3786 Voice • (301) 589-3797 Fax
www.cepintdi.org • info@cepintdi.org



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www.deafinonline.org



www.nvrc.org



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