

NOAA Weather Radio - All Hazards Quick Facts



(NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Working with the Federal Communication Commission's Emergency Alert System, **NWR is an all hazards radio network, making it your single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information.**

In conjunction with emergency managers and other public officials, NWR broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards including natural events such as earthquakes and avalanches, environmental accidents such as chemical releases or oil spills, and public safety issues such as a child abduction or 911 telephone outage.

Many manufacturers offer suitable NWR receivers with prices starting at around \$20. When choosing yours, make sure that it has these features:

Tone alarm, SAME technology and battery backup!



Tone alarm: NWS will send a tone alarm before broadcasting most warnings and many watch messages. The alarm will activate all the receivers equipped to receive it, even if the audio is turned off. This is especially useful for warnings during the night.

SAME technology: SAME, or Specific Alert Message Encoding allows you to specify the particular area for which you wish to receive alerts. SAME receivers will respond only to alerts issued for the area (or areas) you have selected. This minimizes the number of "false alarms" for events which might be a few counties away from where you live.



Selectable alerting of events: Some receivers allow you to turn off alarms for certain events which might not be important to you. For example, if you live in a coastal county, but not right at the beach, you might not care about Coastal Flood Warnings.

Battery backup: Since power outages often occur during storms, having a receiver with battery backup can be crucial. However, unless you have a portable unit which you will use away from other power sources, an AC power connection is recommended to preserve battery life.



External antenna jack: While most receivers come with a whip antenna you usually can extend to improve reception, depending on your location you also may need an external antenna.

External device jack - functional needs: Some radios have a jack to plug-in external notification devices, such as strobe lights or bed shakers, which can be useful for those with functional needs.

Closest NWR transmitter is located in Crystal Lake. It provides full coverage for McHenry County. Below are the SAME codes broadcasted by this Transmitter, that you can use to program your radio.

State	County	SAME Code
IL	McHenry	017111
IL	Boone	017007
IL	Cook	017031
IL	Kane	017089
IL	Lake	017097
WI	Kenosha	055059
WI	Walworth	055127

