NOAA Weather Radio

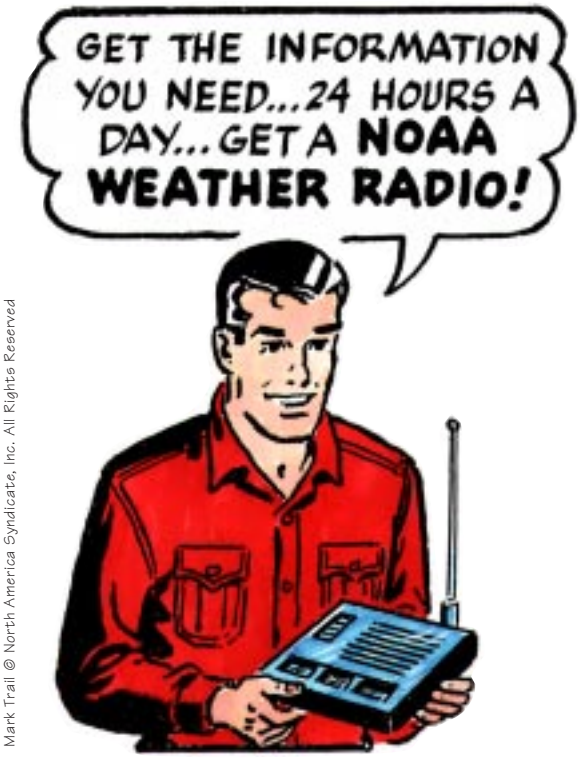
...the voice of the
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

May 1999

American Red Cross

Take a Tip From MARK TRAIL...



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Legendary comic strip character Mark Trail, the official spokesperson for NOAA Weather Radio, has taught generations of Americans about life in the outdoors. The strip, syndicated by King Features in 175 newspapers nationwide, is written and drawn by Jack Elrod.

NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day. Known as the ***"voice of the National Weather Service,"*** NOAA Weather Radio is provided as a public service by the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The NOAA Weather Radio network has more than 425 stations in the 50 states and near adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and U.S. Pacific Territories.

What's the weather? Thanks to NOAA Weather Radio, you'll always have the answer to that question and access to potentially life-saving emergency information whenever you need it.

When you purchase a NOAA Weather Radio receiver, you are purchasing part of the National Weather Service network. The network is constantly upgrading its technology to provide the best weather reporting service possible for the nation.

For less than the cost of a new pair of shoes, you can own a special weather radio that provides instant access to the same weather reports and emergency information that meteorologists and emergency personnel use—information that can save your life!

"ALL HAZARDS" capabilities

NOAA Weather Radio now broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards—both natural (such as earthquakes and volcano activity) and technological (such as chemical releases or oil spills). Working with other Federal agencies and the Federal Communications Commission's new Emergency Alert System, NOAA Weather Radio is an **"all hazards"** radio network, making it the single source for the most comprehensive weather and emergency information available to the public.

SECONDS SAVE LIVES!

Weather radios equipped with a special alarm tone feature can sound an alert and give you immediate information about a life-threatening situation. During an emergency, National Weather Service forecasters will interrupt routine weather radio programming and send out the special tone that activates weather radios in the listening area. The hearing- and visually 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.

Who Needs NOAA Weather Radio?

Public safety experts agree: the receivers should be standard equipment in every home. They are especially valuable in places that are entrusted with public safety, including hospitals, schools, places of worship, nursing homes, restaurants, grocery stores, recreation centers, office buildings, sports facilities, theaters, retail stores, bus and train stations, airports, marinas and other public-gathering places.

Where Can I Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio?

Check with stores that sell electronics, or call the National Weather Service office closest to you. More information is available through the Internet at the National Weather Service's NOAA Weather Radio Web Site—
http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr

NOAA Weather Radio...*Improving For the Future*

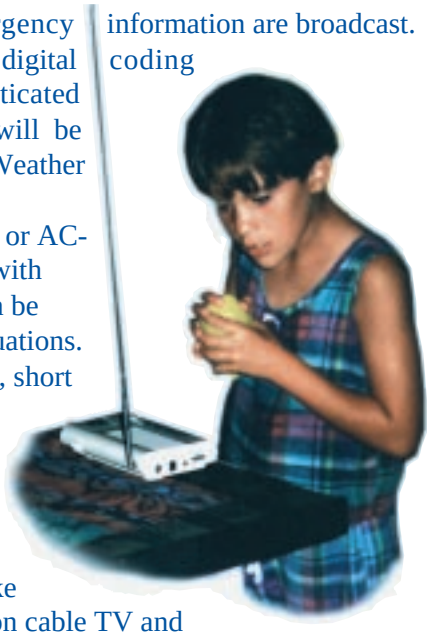
Additional NOAA Weather Radio transmitters will continue to expand the nationwide network coverage to more rural areas. With new digital technology, life-saving messages broadcast on NOAA Weather Radio will now be targeted to a specific area, like a county or portion of a state, to bring more hazard-specific information to the listening area. Additional digital technology will provide automated broadcast capability for more timely service. Digital technology also allows these messages to be automatically received by all the communications industries of the information superhighway—broadcast, cable, satellites and other media—through the Federal Communications Commission's Emergency Alert System.

"Our goal is to someday have a NOAA Weather Radio in every home, just like a smoke detector, and in all schools, hospitals and other public gathering places. NOAA Weather Radio gives people the kind of information they need to safeguard themselves and their home before, during and after a disaster."

Director
National Weather Service

Receivers to Fit Different Needs

Weather radios come in many sizes and with a variety of functions and costs. Many of the radios sound a *tone alarm* and/or turn on the audio when severe weather announcements or emergency information are broadcast. To make use of the new digital coding technology, more sophisticated weather radio receivers will be required. Most NOAA Weather Radio receivers are either battery-operated portables or AC-powered desktop models with battery backup so they can be used in many different situations. Some CB radios, scanners, short wave and AM/FM radios are capable of receiving NOAA Weather Radio transmissions. Many communities throughout the United States also make Weather Radio available on cable TV and broadcast television's secondary audio programming channels.



Expansion Through Partnerships

The goal of the National Weather Service and other emergency preparedness agencies is to expand the reach of weather radio broadcasts to 95 percent of the U.S. population. Innovative partnerships between the Weather Service, private sector organizations and state and local governments are fueling this expansion. For more information about developing a partnership with the National Weather Service, contact your local Weather Service office.

NOAA Weather Radio

...the Voice of the National Weather Service

Alabama
ANNISTON 162.475
AUBURN 162.525
BIRMINGHAM 162.550
CULLMAN 162.450
DEMOPOLIS/LINDEN 162.475
DOZIER 162.550
FLORENCE 162.475
FORT PAYNE 162.500
HUNTSVILLE 162.400
JACKSON 162.500
LOUISVILLE 162.475
MOBILE 162.550
MONTGOMERY 162.400
TUSCALOOSA 162.400
WINFIELD 162.525

Alaska
ANCHORAGE 162.550
CORDOVA 162.400
CRAIG 162.475
FAIRBANKS 162.550
HAINES 162.400
HOMER 162.400
JUNEAU 162.550
KETCHIKAN 162.550
KODI 162.550
NOME 162.550
SEWARD 162.550
SITKA 162.550
SOLDOTNA 162.475
VALDEZ 162.550
WRANGELL 162.400
YAKUTAT 162.400

Arizona
FLAGSTAFF 162.400
GILA COUNTY NORTH 162.425
GILA COUNTY SOUTH 162.500
GRAND CANYON
(Hopi Point) 162.475
PHOENIX 162.550
PRESCOTT 162.525
SHOW LOW (Porter Mt.) 162.400
TUCSON 162.400
WINDOW ROCK 162.550
YUMA 162.550

Arkansas
FAYETTEVILLE 162.475
FORT SMITH 162.550
GURDON 162.475
JONESBORO 162.550
LITTLE ROCK 162.550
MOUNTAIN VIEW 162.450
RUSSELLVILLE 162.525
STAR CITY 162.400
TEXARKANA 162.550
YELLVILLE 162.500

California
BAKERSFIELD 162.550
COACHELLA 162.400
EUREKA 162.400
FRESNO 162.400
GRASS VALLEY
(Wolf Mt.) 162.400
LOS ANGELES 162.550
MONTEREY 162.550
PT. ARENA/UKIAH 162.550
REDDING 162.550
SACRAMENTO 162.400
SAN DIEGO 162.400
SAN FRANCISCO 162.400
SAN LUIS OBISPO 162.550
SANTA ANA 162.450
SANTA BARBARA 162.400
SANTA BARBARA
MARINE 162.475

Colorado
ALAMOSA 162.475
BETHUNE 162.525
COLORADO SPRINGS 162.475
DENVER 162.550
FORT COLLINS 162.450
FOWLER 162.425
GLENWOOD SPRINGS 162.500
GRAND JUNCTION 162.550
GREELEY 162.400
LA JUNTA 162.500
MEAD/LONGMONT 162.475
PUEBLO 162.400
STERLING 162.400

Connecticut
HARTFORD 162.475
MERIDEN 162.400
NEW LONDON 162.550

Delaware
LEWES 162.550
SALISBURY, MD 162.475

Florida
BELLE GLADE 162.400
BETHLEHEM 162.450
DAYTONA BEACH 162.400
EAST POINT 162.500
FORT MYERS 162.475
FORT PIERCE 162.425
GAINESVILLE 162.475
INVERNESS 162.400
JACKSONVILLE 162.550
KEY WEST 162.400
LIVE OKA 162.450
MELBOURNE 162.550
MIAMI 162.550
NAPLES 162.525
OCALA 162.525
ORLANDO 162.475
PANAMA CITY 162.550
PENSACOLA 162.400
SALEM 162.425
SEBRING 162.500
TALLAHASSEE 162.400
TAMPA 162.550
VENICE 162.400
WEST PALM BEACH 162.475

Georgia
ATHENS 162.400
ATLANTA 162.550
AUGUSTA 162.550
BAXLEY 162.525
BUCHANAN 162.425
CHATSWORTH 162.400
COLUMBUS 162.400
MACON 162.475
PELHAM 162.550
SAVANNAH 162.400
VALDOSTA 162.500
WAYCROSS 162.475
WAYNESBORO 162.425

Hawaii
HAWAII (South Point) 162.550
HAWAII (Kulani Cone) 162.550
KANEOHE
(Puu Hawaiiloa) 162.400
KAUAI (Kokee) 162.400
MAUI (Mt. Haleakala) 162.400
OAHU (Mt. Kaala) 162.550
OAHU (Hawaii Kai) 162.400

Idaho
BOISE 162.550
BONNERS FERRY 162.500
LEWISTON 162.550
McCALL 162.475
POCATELLO 162.550
TWIN FALLS 162.400

Illinois
CHAMPAIGN 162.550
CHICAGO 162.550
MARION 162.425
PEORIA 162.475
ROCK ISLAND/MOLINE 162.550
ROCKFORD 162.475
SPRINGFIELD 162.400

Indiana
BLOOMINGTON 162.400
EDWARDSSPORT 162.425
EVANSVILLE 162.550
FORT WAYNE 162.550
GEORGIA 162.550
INDIANAPOLIS 162.550
LAFAYETTE(Yeoman) 162.475
MARION 162.450
NORTH WEBSTER 162.450
PUTNAMVILLE 162.400
SEYMOUR 162.525
SOUTH BEND 162.400

Iowa
CEDAR RAPIDS 162.475
DES MOINES 162.550
DUBUQUE 162.400
SIOUX CITY 162.475
WATERLOO 162.550

Kansas
CHANUTE 162.400
COLBY/GOODLAND 162.475
CONCORDIA 162.550
DODGE CITY 162.475
ELLSWORTH 162.400
LENORA 162.425
TOPEKA 162.475
TRIBUNE 162.550
WICHITA 162.550

Kentucky
ASHLAND 162.550
BEATTYVILLE 162.500
BOWLING GREEN 162.400
COVINGTON 162.550
ELIZABETHTOWN 162.550
FRENCHBURG 162.475
HARLAN 162.450
HAZARD 162.475
LEXINGTON 162.400
LONDON 162.475
LOUSIVILLE 162.475
MANCHESTER 162.400
MAYFIELD 162.475
MC KEE 162.450
MONTICELLO 162.425
MOREHEAD 162.425
MT. VERNON 162.425
JACKSON 162.425
PAINTSVILLE 162.525
PHELPS 162.500
PIKEVILLE 162.400
PINEVILLE 162.525
RICHMOND 162.525
SOMERSET 162.550
STANTON 162.550
WEST LIBERTY 162.450
WILLIAMSBURG 162.500

Louisiana
ALEXANDRIA 162.475
BATON ROUGE 162.400
BURAS 162.475
LAFAYETTE 162.550
LAKE CHARLES 162.400
MONROE 162.550
MORGAN CITY 162.475
NEW ORLEANS 162.550
SHREVEPORT 162.400

Maine
CARIBOU 162.525
DRESDEN 162.475
ELLSWORTH 162.400
FALMOUTH 162.550

Mariana Islands
GUAM (Nimitz Hill) 162.400
SAIPAN
(Mt. Tapoctchau) 162.550

Maryland
BALTIMORE 162.400
HAGERSTOWN 162.475

Massachusetts
BOSTON 162.475
HYANNIS
(Camp Edwards) 162.550
MT. GREYLOCK 162.525
WORCESTER 162.550

Michigan
ALPENA 162.550
DETROIT 162.550
FLINT 162.475
GAYLORD 162.500
GRAND RAPIDS 162.550
HESPERIA 162.475
HOUGHTON 162.400
MARQUETTE 162.550
ONONDAGA 162.400
OSHTEMO 162.475
SAULT STE MARIE 162.550
TRAVERSE CITY 162.400

Minnesota
BEMIDJI 162.425
DETROIT LAKES 162.400
DULUTH 162.550
INTERNATIONAL FALLS 162.550
MANKATO 162.400
MINNEAPOLIS/
ST. PAUL 162.550
PARK RAPIDS 162.475
ROCHESTER 162.475
ROOSEVELT 162.450
ST. CLOUD 162.400
THIEF RIVER FALLS 162.550
WILLMAR 162.475

Mississippi
ACKERMAN 162.475
BOONEVILLE 162.550
BUDE 162.550
COLUMBIA 162.400
GULFPORT 162.400
HATTIESBURG 162.475
INVERNESS 162.550
JACKSON 162.400
KOSCIUSKO 162.425
MERIDIAN 162.550
OXFORD 162.400
PARCHMAN 162.500

Missouri
BOURBON 162.525
CAMDENTON 162.550
COLUMBIA 162.400
DONIPHAN 162.450
FREDERICKTOWN 162.500
HANNIBAL 162.475

BROADCAST FREQUENCIES

162.400 MHz
162.425 MHz
162.450 MHz
162.475 MHz
162.500 MHz
162.525 MHz
162.550 MHz

Broadcast range from the weather radio transmitter is approximately 40 miles. The effective range depends on such things as terrain and quality of the receiver and indoor/outdoor antenna. Before you buy a receiver, make sure your area is covered by one of these transmitters.

HERMITAGE 162.450
JOPLIN 162.425
KANSAS CITY 162.550
SIKESTON 162.400
SPRINGFIELD 162.400
ST. JOSEPH 162.400
ST. LOUIS 162.550
SUMMERSVILLE 162.475
WARDELL 162.525

Montana
BILLINGS 162.550
BUTTE 162.550
GLASGOW 162.400
GLENDIVE 162.475
GREAT FALLS 162.550
HAVRE (Squaw Butte) 162.400
HELENA 162.400
KALISPELL 162.550
MALTA 162.475
MILES CITY 162.400
MISSOULA 162.400
PLENTYWOOD 162.475
PONDERA COUNTY 162.475
SCOBY 162.450

Nebraska
BASSETT 162.475
GRAND ISLAND 162.400
HOLDREGE 162.475
LINCOLN 162.475
MERRIMAN 162.400
NORFOLK 162.550
NORTH PLATTE 162.550
OMAHA 162.400
SCOTTSBLUFF 162.550

Nevada
ELKO 162.550
ELY (Cave Mtn) 162.400
EUREKA 162.550
HAWTHORNE 162.475
LAS VEGAS (Boulder City) 162.550
NORTHWEST NEVADA ... 162.450
RENO 162.550
WINNEMUCCA 162.400

New Hampshire
CONCORD 162.400

New Jersey
ATLANTIC CITY 162.400

New Mexico
ALBUQUERQUE 162.400
CARLSBAD 162.475
CLOVIS 162.475
DES MOINES 162.550
FARMINGTON 162.475
HOBBS 162.400
LAS CRUCES 162.400
ROSWELL 162.450
RUIDOSO 162.550
SANTA FE 162.550

New York
ALBANY 162.550
BINGHAMTON 162.475
BUFFALO 162.550
ELMIRA 162.400
KINGSTON 162.475
LITTLE VALLEY 162.425
NEW YORK CITY 162.550
RIVERHEAD 162.475
ROCHESTER 162.400
STAMFORD 162.400
SYRACUSE 162.550
WATERTOWN 162.475

North Carolina
ASHEVILLE 162.400
BADIN 162.425
CAPE HATTERAS 162.475
CHARLOTTE 162.475
FAYETTEVILLE 162.475
LUMBER BRIDGE 162.525
MARGARETSVILLE 162.500
NEW BERN 162.400
RALEIGH/DURHAM 162.550
ROCKY MOUNT 162.475
WILMINGTON 162.550
WINSTON-SALEM 162.400

North Dakota
BISMARK 162.475
DEVILS LAKE 162.425
DICKINSON 162.400
FARGO 162.475
GRAND FORKS 162.475
JAMESTOWN 162.550
PETERSBURG 162.400
WILLISTON 162.550

Ohio
AKRON 162.400
BRIDGEPORT 162.525
CALDWELL 162.475
CLEVELAND 162.550
COLUMBUS 162.550
DAYTON 162.475
LIMA 162.400
SANDUSKY 162.400
TOLEDO 162.550

Oklahoma
ALTUS 162.425
CLINTON 162.475
ENID 162.475
LAWTON 162.550
MCALESTER 162.475
OKLAHOMA CITY 162.400
PONCA CITY 162.450
TULSA 162.550
WOODWARD 162.500

Oregon
ASTORIA 162.400
BEND/REDMOND 162.500
COOS BAY 162.400
EUGENE 162.400
GLENWOOD 162.425
KLAMATH FALLS 162.550
MEDFORD 162.400
MT. ASHLAND 162.475
NEWPORT 162.550
PENDLETON 162.400
PORTLAND 162.550
ROSEBURG 162.550
SALEM 162.475
TILLAMOOK 162.475
UMATILLA 162.500

Pennsylvania
ALLENTOWN 162.400
CLEARFIELD 162.550
ERIE 162.400
HARRISBURG 162.550
JOHNSTOWN 162.400
PARKER 162.425
PHILADELPHIA 162.475
PITTSBURGH 162.550
STATE COLLEGE 162.475
THREE SPRINGS 162.525
TOWANDA 162.550
WARREN 162.450
WELLSBORO 162.475
WILKES-BARRE 162.550
WILLIAMSPORT 162.400

Puerto Rico
MARICAO 162.550
SAN JUAN 162.400

Rhode Island
PROVIDENCE 162.400

South Carolina
BEAUFORT 162.475
CHARLESTON 162.550
COLUMBIA 162.400
CONWAY/ MYRTLE BEACH 162.400
CROSS 162.475
FLORENCE 162.550
GREENVILLE 162.550
SUMTER 162.475

South Dakota
ABERDEEN 162.475
HURON 162.550
PIERRE 162.400
RAPID CITY 162.550
SIOUX FALLS 162.400

Tennessee
BRISTOL 162.550
CHATTANOOGA 162.550
COOKEVILLE 162.400
JACKSON 162.550
KNOXVILLE 162.475
LAWRENCEBURG 162.425
MEMPHIS 162.475
NASHVILLE 162.550
SHELBYVILLE 162.475
WAVERLY 162.400

Texas
ABILENE 162.400
AMARILLO 162.550
AUSTIN 162.400
BAY CITY 162.425
BEAUMONT 162.475
BIG SPRING 162.475
BROWNSVILLE 162.550
BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION 162.550
CEDAR HILL (Dallas) 162.400
CORPUS CHRISTI 162.550
DEL RIO 162.400
EL PASO 162.475
FT. WORTH 162.550
GALVESTON 162.550
HOUSTON 162.400
JUNCTION 162.475
KERRVILLE 162.450
LA GRANGE 162.500
LAREDO 162.475
LLANO 162.420
LUBBOCK 162.400
LUFKIN 162.550
ODESSA/MIDLAND 162.400
PARIS 162.550
PHARR 162.400
RICHLAND SPRINGS 162.525
SAN ANGELO 162.550
SAN ANTONIO 162.550
SHERMAN 162.475
TYLER 162.475
VICTORIA 162.400
WACO 162.475
WICHITA FALLS 162.475

Utah
LAKE POWELL 162.550
LOGAN 162.400
MILFORD/CEDAR CITY ... 162.400
SALT LAKE CITY 162.550
ST. GEORGE (Utah Hill) 162.425
TOOELE (South Mt.) 162.450
TOOELE (Vernon Hills) 162.525
VERNAL 162.400

Vermont
BURLINGTON 162.400
MARLBORO 162.425
WINDSOR 162.475

Virginia
HEATHSVILLE 162.400
LYNCHBURG 162.550
NORFOLK 162.550
RICHMOND 162.475
ROANOKE 162.475
WASHINGTON,DC (Manassas) 162.550

Virgin Islands
ST. THOMAS 162.475

Washington
NEAH BAY 162.550
OKANAGAN (Tunk Mt.) 162.525
OLYMPIA 162.475
PORT ANGELES MARINE 162.425
RICHLAND 162.450
SEATTLE 162.550
SPOKANE 162.400
WENATCHEE 162.475
YAKIMA 162.550

West Virginia
BECKLEY 162.550
CHARLESTON 162.400
CLARKSBURG 162.550
GILBERT 162.475
HINTON 162.425
MOOREFIELD 162.400
OGDEN 162.425
SPENCER 162.500
SUTTON 162.450

Wisconsin
ADAMS 162.400
CRANDON 162.450
FOND DU LAC 162.500
GREEN BAY 162.550
JANESVILLE 162.425
LA CROSSE 162.550
MADISON 162.550
MENOMONIE 162.400
MILWAUKEE 162.400
PARK FALLS 162.500
PRAIRIE DU CHIEN 162.500
RICHLAND CENTER 162.450
SHEBOYGAN 162.525
SISTER BAY 162.425
WAUSAU 162.475

Wyoming
CASPER MOUNTAIN 162.550
CHEYENNE 162.475
LANDER 162.475
SHERIDAN 162.500

NOAA Weather Radio coverage is expanding through our partnership programs with local communities. For the latest list of frequencies, check the NOAA Weather Radio Web Site—
http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr

Up-to-the-Minute Weather Reports and Much More...

NOAA Weather Radio is not just for emergencies. It is a round-the-clock source of weather reports and information to help you prepare for the day ahead.

Each National Weather Service office tailors its broadcast to suit local needs. Routine programming is repeated every few minutes and consists of the local forecast, regional conditions and marine forecasts. Additional information, including river stages and climatic data, is also provided. During emergencies, routine broadcasts are interrupted for warnings, watches and other critical information.

NOAA Weather Radio is the perfect complement to local radio and TV weather news as well as Emergency Managers Weather Information Network, the Internet and other sources of weather information.

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

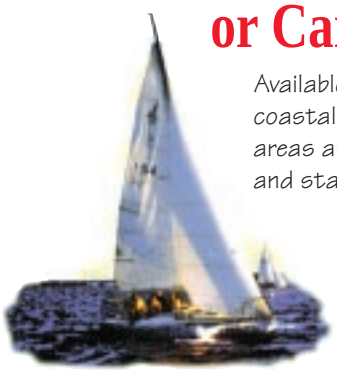
Available to travelers on highways and at rest areas across the nation.

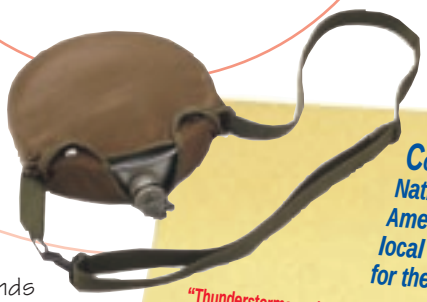
At Play

Include a Weather Radio along with sports equipment when inclement weather is possible.

While Boating or Camping

Available in many coastal and wilderness areas and in campgrounds and state parks.





Contact your local National Weather Service office, American Red Cross chapter, or local emergency management office for the following publications:

"Thunderstorms and Lightning...The Underrated Killers!" (NOAA PA 92053/ARC 5001)
"Tornadoes...Nature's Most Violent Storms" (NOAA PA 92052/ARC 5002)
"Flash Floods and Floods...The Awesome Power" (NOAA PA 92050/ARC 4493)
"Winter Storms...The Deceptive Killers" (NOAA PA 91002/ ARC 4467)
"Hurricanes...Unleashing Nature's Fury" (NOAA PA 94050/ARC 5030)

To learn more about these programs, visit our home pages. The addresses are:

NWS — http://www.nws.noaa.gov
Red Cross — http://www.redcross.org
FEMA — http://www.fema.gov

More Information is Available!

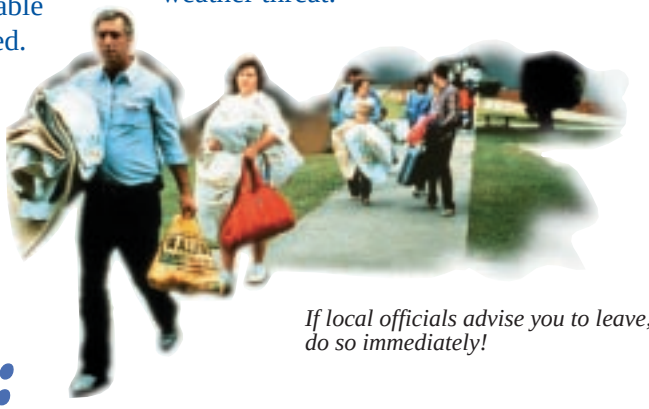
The Key to Preparedness...

Everyone Should Have a Plan!

Preparedness begins for everyone (including schools, businesses and the home) with a plan of action. This plan should be kept up to date and practiced frequently! Be sure everyone knows and understands the plan. A vital aspect of the plan should be to designate someone to monitor NOAA Weather Radio. Weather Radio is the key that unlocks the plan and puts it into action!

STAY INFORMED by listening to NOAA Weather Radio for the latest watches and warnings. When conditions are favorable for severe weather, a WATCH is issued. When severe weather is imminent or occurring, a WARNING is issued.

Weather Service personnel use information from Doppler radar, storm spotters, state and local officials, satellites and other sources to issue warnings. These Watches and Warnings are broadcast over local NOAA Weather Radio stations and also are retransmitted by many local radio and television stations. With this information, local emergency management and public safety officials can activate local warning systems to alert communities of an impending weather threat.



If local officials advise you to leave, do so immediately!

What to Listen For:

	WATCH	WARNING
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM	Severe thunderstorms are possible in your area.	A severe thunderstorm is imminent or has been indicated by Doppler radar or reported by storm spotters.
TORNADO	Tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms.	A tornado is imminent or has been indicated by Doppler radar or reported by storm spotters. Move to your predesignated place of safety immediately!
FLASH FLOOD OR FLOOD	Flash flooding or flooding is possible in your area.	Flash flooding or flooding is occurring or is imminent. Take necessary precautions immediately!
WINTER STORM	Hazardous winter weather conditions, such as heavy snow and/or ice, are possible in your area.	Hazardous winter weather conditions are forecast to occur within 12 hours or are about to begin in your area. Stay indoors!
HURRICANE/ TYPHOON	Hurricane/Typhoon conditions are possible in the specified area of the Watch.	Hurricane/Typhoon conditions are expected in the specified area of the Warning, usually within 24 hours. Complete storm preparations and evacuate if directed by officials.

Family Disaster Plan...

Families should be prepared for all hazards that affect their area. NOAA's National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Red Cross urge each family to develop a family disaster plan.

Where will your family be when disaster strikes? They could be anywhere—at home, at work, at school or in the car. How will you find each other? Will you know if your children are safe? Disasters may force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. What would you do if basic services—water, gas, electricity or telephones—were cut off?

Follow these basic steps to develop a family disaster plan...

Gather information about hazards.

I. Contact your local National Weather Service office, emergency management or civil defense office and American Red Cross chapter. Find out what type of disasters could occur and how you should respond. Learn your community's warning signals and evacuation plans.

Meet with your family to create a plan.

II. Discuss the information you have gathered. Pick two places to meet during or after an emergency: a spot outside your home for an emergency, such as fire, and a place away from your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Choose an out-of-state friend as your "family check-in contact" for everyone to call if the family gets separated. Discuss what you would do if advised to evacuate.

Implement your plan.

III. (1) Obtain a NOAA Weather Radio; (2) Post emergency telephone numbers by phones; (3) Install safety features in your house, such as smoke detectors and fire extinguishers; (4) Inspect your home for potential hazards (such as items that can move, fall, break or catch fire) and correct them; (5) Have your family learn basic safety measures, such as CPR and first aid; how to use a fire extinguisher; and how and when to turn off water, gas and electricity in your home; (6) Teach children how and when to call 911 or your local Emergency Medical Services number; (7) Keep enough supplies in your home to meet your needs for at least three days. Assemble a disaster supplies kit with items you may need in case of an evacuation. Store these supplies in sturdy, water-resistant, easy-to-carry containers, such as backpacks or duffle bags. Keep important family documents in a waterproof container. Keep a smaller disaster supplies kit in the trunk of your car.

A DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT SHOULD INCLUDE:
A three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and food that won't spoil ◆ one change of clothing and footwear per person ◆ one blanket or sleeping bag per person ◆ a first aid kit, including prescription medicines ◆ emergency tools, including a battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and a portable radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries ◆ an extra set of car keys and cash ◆ special items for infant, elderly and disabled family members.

Practice and maintain your plan.

IV. Ask questions to make sure your family remembers meeting places, phone numbers and safety rules. Conduct drills. Test your Weather Radio monthly using the local test tone broadcast by the National Weather Service every Wednesday between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Test your Weather Radio and smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Test and recharge your fire extinguisher(s) according to manufacturer's instructions. Replace stored water and food every six months.

LOCAL SPONSORSHIP:

As agencies of the Federal Government, the Department of Commerce and its NOAA National Weather Service as well as the private nonprofit agency the American Red Cross, do not endorse consumer products or services.

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