

WEATHER RADIOS SAVE LIVES



Thunderstorms, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, bomb scares, chemical spills and wildfires. These are just a few of the potential hazards in Lake County.

Having a battery operated, tone-alert NOAA Weather Radio in your home is like having your own personal tornado siren – only it will alert you of all these impending dangers. In every home, a weather radio should be as common as a smoke detector.

A weather radio broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other non-weather related hazard information 24 hours a day. During an emergency, the weather service forecasters interrupt routine broadcasts and send a special tone activating local weather radios. Weather radios equipped with a special alarm tone feature sound an alert to give you immediate information about a life-threatening situation.

Local SAME* code

**Specific Area Message Encoding*

County	SAME Code	County	SAME Code
Lake	012069	Polk	012105
Marion	012083	Seminole	012117
Orange	012095	Sumter	012119
Osceola	012097	Volusia	012127

Local Frequencies

Transmitter	Channel	VHF Frequency
Daytona Beach	channel 1	162.400
Orlando	channel 4	162.475
Sumterville	channel 5	162.500



AlertLake is Lake County's public safety warning system capable of warning Lake County residents of an immediate emergency, such

as a missing person, hazardous materials spill, law enforcement advisories and wildfire and tornado warnings issued by the National Weather Service. Alerts can be sent to your home, cellular and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones as well as email accounts.

Current landline telephone users (listed and unlisted) are already registered. Residents can register multiple cellular phone numbers and email addresses. To register for AlertLake, log on to www.lakecountyfl.gov, keyword search "AlertLake."

STOCK A DISASTER-SUPPLY KIT

When a disaster strikes, it may not leave your family much time to prepare. After a disaster, local emergency officials and relief workers will be on the scene, but they will not be able to reach everyone immediately. It could take hours or even days before help can get to your neighborhood. Preparing a disaster supply kit will help your family better cope with the situation. Some necessary items in every disaster supply kit include:

- One gallon of water per person for five days
- Enough non-perishable food for the household for at least five days
- A non-electric can opener; cooking tools and fuel; paper plates & towels; and plastic utensils & cups
- Toiletries, such as toothpaste and brush; deodorant and soap; shaving equipment; personal hygiene supplies; shampoo; wash cloth and towel; and toilet paper
- Garbage bags, resealable plastic bags and tarps
- Supplies for infants, including diapers and formula
- Supplies for senior citizens, including special dietary considerations and incontinence pads
- At least a two-week supply of prescribed family medicines, as well as a typical first-aid kit with bandages, antibiotic cream, headache medicine and antacids
- Blankets, pillows, extra clothing
- Battery-powered NOAA weather radio, HDTV and flashlight; and extra batteries
- A waterproof container with extra cash and important documents, such as insurance, bank account and Social Security cards
- A list of important phone numbers including the family's local pharmacy, doctors and designated contacts the family can call in case of an emergency
- Camera to record damage to property
- Rain gear and hard sole shoes
- Cleaning supplies and equipment
- Pet supplies including food water and medicines

PRESERVE DOCUMENTS

Make a complete inventory of your home, garage and surrounding property. The inventory can be either written or videotaped. Include information such as serial numbers, makes and model numbers, physical descriptions and price of purchases (receipts, if possible).

Vital documents such as birth and marriage certificates, tax records, credit card numbers, financial records, and wills and trusts can be lost during a disaster. Make two photocopies of these documents and keep the originals in a safe deposit box, keep one copy in a safe place in the house, and give the second copy to an out-of-state friend or relative.

LAKE COUNTY/FLORIDA Emergency Management

CREATING A FAMILY DISASTER PLAN 352-343-9420



LAKE COUNTY
FLORIDA

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION
425 W. Alfred St., Tavares, Florida 32778-7800

Phone: 352-343-9420

Fax: 352-343-9728

Email: disasterready@lakecountyfl.gov or
alertlake@lakecountyfl.gov

Web: www.lakecountyfl.gov, keyword: emergency

STEPS TO DISASTER PLANNING

When a disaster strikes, there may not be much time to act. Preparing now for an emergency will give you and your family time to react safely and in a well thought-out manner. A plan of action for you and your family can go a long way toward reducing potential suffering from any type of disaster that could strike. A few tips to preparing a family-disaster plan include:

ESCAPE ROUTES — Be familiar with escape routes. Depending upon the type of disaster, it may be necessary to evacuate your home. Plan several escape routes in case certain roads are blocked or closed.

KEEP RADIOS — Maintaining a communications link with the outside is a step that can mean the difference between life and death. Make sure that all family members know where the portable, battery-powered AM/FM radio, HDTV and a NOAA weather radio are located and always keep a supply of extra batteries.

DETECT SMOKE — Install smoke detectors on each level of the home, especially near bedrooms.

POST NUMBERS — Keep emergency telephone numbers, such as fire, police, ambulance and poison control by all telephones.

KNOW 9-1-1 — Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1.

EXTINGUISH FIRES — Teach each household member how to use a fire extinguisher. Make sure they know where it is kept. Remember the acronym "PASS" when you using a fire extinguisher. The four basic steps to using a fire extinguisher are:

- Pull — Place extinguisher on the floor. Hold it by the tank (applying pressure on the handle could pinch the pin). Pull the pin straight out.
- Aim — Start 10 feet back from the fire. Aim at the base of the fire.
- Squeeze — Squeeze the lever on the fire extinguisher.
- Sweep — Sweep from side to side, moving in slowly until the fire is out.
- Get out if the fire gets bigger, close the door and evacuate.

HAZARD HUNT — Beware of potential hazards in the house that could be dangerous in an emergency, such as stored chemicals.

LEARN FIRST AID — Learn how to give basic first aid, CPR and how to operate an Automatic External Defibrillator. For more information, call the local American Red Cross office in Leesburg at 352-314-0883.

PETS & DISASTERS

Make arrangements for your pets as part of your household disaster planning. If you must evacuate it is best to take your pets with you.

Animals left behind in a disaster can be injured, lost, or killed. If they are turned loose to fend for themselves, they are likely to become victims of exposure, starvation, predators, contaminated food or water, or accidents. In Lake County, pets are allowed in designated public emergency shelters.

Items to include in a pet's emergency kit (* items to take pet-friendly shelters):

- Food, water and medicines for five days *
- Medical and veterinary records *
- Toys, blanket or bed
- Litter box and litter *
- ID tag attached to pet *
- Pet carrier and leash *
- Current photos of pet with physical description
- Container to carry everything *

COMMUNICATION PLAN

In case family members are separated from one another during a disaster (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children at school), develop a plan for reuniting after the disaster.

Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact." After a disaster, it is often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address and phone number of the contact person.

UNDERSTANDING DISASTERS

LEARN ABOUT DISASTERS — Find out what types of natural disasters can affect you and your community. In Lake County, some of the potential natural disasters are hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, thunderstorms and lightning, wildfires, floods, sinkholes and even earthquakes.

IDENTIFY OTHER DISASTERS — Other types of disasters are manmade. For example, hazardous-material accidents can occur anywhere chemical substances are stored, manufactured or transported.

LEARN WARNING SYSTEM — In Lake County, the public warning system is provided through the National Weather Service's NOAA Weather Radio and Emergency Alert System on AM/FM radio and television. AlertLake, Lake County's Emergency Notification System.

UNDERSTAND OTHER PLANS — While your family is preparing its own disaster plan, it is important to understand the disaster plans at work or at school. Employers and school officials should have detailed emergency response plans that are available to the public.

For more information about preparing for disasters, log on to www.lakecountyfl.gov, keyword: emergency.

PLANS AFTER A DISASTER

- Help family members, friends and neighbors. Remember some may require special assistance, such as infants, elderly and those disabled.
- Give first aid when appropriate. Don't try to move the seriously injured unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call 9-1-1 for help.
- Turn on an AM/FM radio, television or NOAA weather radio to get the latest emergency information. Use the phone only for emergency calls.
- If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse or circuit breaker.
- If you smell the odor of natural gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can and call the gas company. If you turn off the gas, a professional must turn it back on.
- Stay away from downed, loose or dangling power lines and report them to authorities.
- Stay out of damaged buildings. Return home when authorities say it is safe.
- In the case of an electrical outage, it is important to take precautions to ensure food safety. Discard any food that has been at room temperature for two hours or more and any food that has an unusual odor, color or texture. Just remember, "When in doubt, throw it out!"
- If using a generator, make sure your home is not connected to other sources of electricity. Contact the power company for more information. Place generator in a well ventilated area away from your home.
- If you suspect sewage lines are damaged, avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid using water from the tap.
- Do not use candles and open flames.
- Drive only if necessary. Debris and washed-out roads may make driving dangerous.
- Clean up spilled flammable liquids immediately. Leave the building if you smell gas or chemical fumes.
- When cleaning up debris always use proper safety equipment such as heavy gloves, safety goggles, hardhat, heavy boots, light-colored long sleeve shirts and long pants. If you cannot identify something, do not touch it and be wary of downed power lines. Be extremely careful with a chainsaw and always heed safety warnings.
- Take photographs of damage to your house, furnishings and surroundings for insurance claims.