

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	022127

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 up to seven phone numbers and three e-mail 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

LEARNING ABOUT TORNADOES

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LAKE COUNTY
FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION
315 W. Main St., Suite 411, Tavares, Florida 32778-7800

Phone: (352) 343-9420

Fax: (352) 343-9728

E-mail: weatherradio@lakecountyfl.gov

alertlake@lakecountyfl.gov

Web: www.lakecountyfl.gov, keyword: emergency

TORNADO FACTS

- A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground.
- Tornadoes can accompany tropical storms and hurricanes as they move onto land.
- Tornadoes are capable of destroying homes and vehicles and can cause deaths.
- The average forward speed is 30 mph but may vary from stationary to 70 mph and have rotating winds in excess of 250 mph.
- Tornadoes may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel. The average tornado moves southwest to northeast but has been known to travel in any direction.
- Tornadoes can occur any time of the year.
- Waterspouts are tornadoes that form over water.
- Similar to other southern states, peak tornado season in Florida is March through May; however, historically, the most deadly tornadoes in Central Florida have been known to occur as early as February.

CREATE A FAMILY-DISASTER PLAN

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:

- Plans should be kept simple. The best emergency plans are those that are easy to remember.
- If you must evacuate your home, it is always best to take your pets with you.
- Be familiar with escape routes in case you need to evacuate your neighborhood. Plan several escape routes for different situations. Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster. Instruct household members to turn on the radio or television for emergency information.
- Select one calling point, possibly a friend or relative, where family members can contact, if they are separated from the rest of the family.
- Learn and post emergency phone numbers and information.
- Take a basic first aid and CPR class.
- Stock a disaster-supply kit.
- Plan for your pets.

TORNADO DANGER SIGNS

Occasionally, tornadoes develop so rapidly that advance warning is not possible. Some warning signs of a tornado are a dark, often greenish sky, large hail, wall cloud and loud roar, similar to a freight train.

Some tornadoes are clearly visible, while rain or nearby low-hanging clouds obscure others. Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still. Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado.

Tornado Watch — Issued by the National Weather Service when a tornado is possible in your area. This is the time to locate a safe place in the home and tell family members to watch the sky and listen to a NOAA weather radio or weather reports on an AM/FM radio or television for more information.

Tornado Warning — Issued by the National Weather Service when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. At this point, the danger is very serious and everyone should go to a safe place, turn on a battery-operated NOAA weather radio and wait for the warning to expire.

PRECAUTIONS BEFORE A TORNADO

- Do not get under an overpass or bridge. A low, flat location is safer.
- In a home or building, move to a pre-designated shelter, such as a basement or in a safe room.
- If an underground shelter is not available, move to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor; turn over a sturdy piece of furniture and get underneath it. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
- Listen to a battery-operated NOAA weather radio and news reports on television and AM/FM radio.
- Stay away from windows. Go to the center of the home. Stay away from corners because they attract debris.
- Get out of automobiles immediately and seek shelter in a nearby building. If a building is unavailable or there is no time, get out of the car and lie in a ditch or low-lying area away from the car. Be aware of the potential for flooding. In urban or congested areas, never try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle; immediately abandon it for shelter. Tornadoes can change direction quickly and can lift up a vehicle and toss it in the air.
- If caught outside, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Be aware of the potential for flooding.
- Be aware of flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes can cause fatalities and injuries.
- Do not open windows, use time to seek shelter.

PRECAUTIONS AFTER A TORNADO

- Help family members, friends and neighbors. Remember some may require special assistance, such as infants, elderly and those disabled.
- Help injured or trapped persons. 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 radio or television to get the latest emergency information. Make sure your NOAA weather radio is operating. 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.
- 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.
- 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 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. When approaching intersections with inoperable traffic lights, treat it like a four-way stop.
- 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 can't identify something, don't 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.