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

MAKE WEATHER RADIOS PART OF YOUR DAILY ROUTINE

Public safety experts across the nation agree: weather radios should be standard equipment in every home.

Weather radios are also extremely valuable in places that are entrusted with public safety, including hospitals, schools, religious institutions and other public gathering places. Just think of the possible uses of having a weather radio available during each part of your day.

HOME – Receive warnings of approaching storms to give you and your family time to shelter.

WORK – Listen to broadcast to learn about inclement weather for your commute home.

Travel – Broadcasts are available at rest areas across the nation.

PLAY – Include a weather radio with sporting equipment to ensure you and your family know about lightning threats before they occur.

BOATING & CAMPING – Severe weather can lead to dangerous implications for boaters and campers. Broadcasts are available in many wilderness areas, campgrounds and state parks.

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

A SINGLE SOURCE FOR EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Thunderstorms, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, bomb scares, chemical spills and wildfires. These are just a few of the potential hazards residents can face 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 Lake County home, a NOAA Weather Radio should be as common as a smoke detector.

A weather radio provides National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other non-weather related hazard information 24 hours a day.

V1-05.01.13

LAKE COUNTY/FLORIDA Emergency Management

LEARNING ABOUT AN ALL-HAZARDS WARNING SYSTEM

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

WEATHER RADIO FAQS

What does a weather radio do?

The National Weather Radio service broadcasts warnings, watches, forecasts and non-weather hazard information 24 hours a day.

Why do I need a weather radio?

When a threat is determined, National Weather Service forecasters interrupt routine weather programming and transmit a special tone that automatically activates weather radios. This instant emergency notification can give you and your family valuable seconds to seek shelter.

What type of weather radio should I buy?

What radio you should buy depends on your personal needs. The most useful features in a weather radio are battery backup, alert tone, SAME technology and that the unit receives all seven NOAA frequencies. Lake County uses the Midland WR-100 for its program to supply at-risk residents with weather radios.

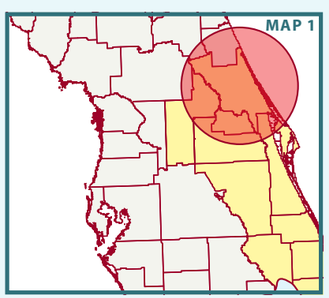
Where can I purchase a weather radio?

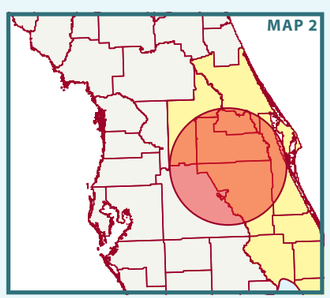
Most local retail stores that sell consumer electronics or home-entertainment equipment stock multiple brands of weather radios.

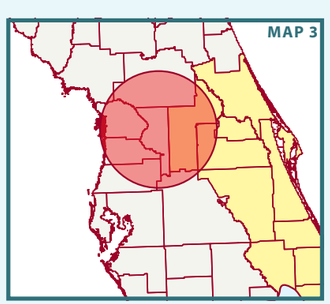
How does the weather radio service work?

There are approximately 750 weather-radio transmitters nationwide making it the single most comprehensive weather and emergency information source. Each transmitter broadcasts on one of seven VHF frequencies. The broadcasts cannot be heard on a simple AM/FM radio receiver. Frequencies for towers transmitting to Lake County are:

- Daytona Beach 162.400 — channel 1 (Map 1)
- Orlando 162.475 — channel 4 (Map 2)
- Sumterville 162.500 — channel 5 (Map 3)







What is the difference between the three transmitters?

There is virtually no difference between the transmitters in Daytona Beach, Orlando and Sumterville. All three are 1,000 watts and send out weather-radio alerts for Lake County. One difference between the three is the National Weather Service office in Melbourne maintains the transmitters in Daytona Beach and Orlando while the Tampa office operates the Sumterville location, but this has no bearing on how Lake County receives weather-radio alerts.

How do I know if my weather radio is working properly?

The National Weather Service sends test messages to weather radios from its Daytona Beach, Orlando and Sumterville transmitters every Wednesday 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. In the event of bad weather, the test will be postponed. On many weather radio models (including the Midland WR-100), the test will not sound the alert tone, but will display a test message on the radio's screen.

What does it mean if I do not receive the weekly tests?

There is a chance that you will not be alerted in the case of a true emergency. Several options you should try include changing the weather radio's frequency to one of the other two transmitters that broadcasts to Lake County, or try moving the weather radio to another part of the house, preferably near a window. If you are still having difficulty receiving a signal, you should consider purchasing an external antenna to complement your weather radio.

I am having trouble with my weather radio, who can help me?

The Lake County Emergency Management Division and National Weather Service's office in Melbourne are available to help local residents with their weather-radio questions. Contact the Lake County Emergency Management Division at 352-343-9420 or by emailing disasterready@lakecountyfl.gov. Contact the National Weather Service office in Melbourne at 321- 255-0212. More information is also available by logging on to www.lakecountyfl.gov, keyword: emergency or www.srh.noaa.gov/mlb/?n=nwr.

AlertLake
EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

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."

FEATURES OF WEATHER RADIOS

ALERT TONE – Activates weather radio to sound, even if the audio is turned off.

SELECTABLE ALERTING OF EVENTS – Allows operator to turn off the alarm for certain events, which might not be pertinent. For example, if an individual lives in a coastal county, but not near the beach, he or she might not wish to know about Coastal Flood Warnings.

BATTERY BACKUP – Since power outages often occur during storms, have a receiver with battery backup is crucial.

SAME TECHNOLOGY – Specific Alert Message Encoding allows an operator to specify the particular area for which to receive alerts.

Since most National Weather Radio transmitters are broadcasting for a number of counties, 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.

However, at the very least, the Emergency Management Division recommends individuals employing SAME technology to program the county they live in as well as the surrounding counties. By also programming neighboring counties, this will give themselves additional warning time for fast-moving storms.

Local frequencies

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

Local SAME code* *(Specific Area Message Encoding)*

County	SAME Code
Lake	012069
Marion	012083
Orange	012095
Osceola	012097

County	SAME Code
Polk	012105
Seminole	012117
Sumter	012119
Volusia	012127

LAKE COUNTY PROVIDES RADIOS TO AT-RISK RESIDENTS

The Lake County Emergency Management Division offers free weather radios to residents who are in the most need.

The program is offered on a first-come, first-serve basis to eligible applicants when funding sources and supplies exist. Residents who are considered at-risk include low-income households with residents 65 years of age or older, children 12 years of age or younger or individuals with disabilities that impede their escape action. Low income is determined by the state income guidelines from the Department of Community Affairs.

The provided weather radios come with one set of batteries. Before accepting the weather radio, applicants must understand they should keep the weather radio positioned for optimum reception, plugged in and batteries replaced at a minimum of once yearly or when the device indicates a low battery.

To apply for the program, call the Emergency Management Division at 352-343-9420 or fill out an application online at www.lakecountyfl.gov, keywords: weather radio