



Questions and Answers:

Special-needs NOAA Weather Radio for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons

What is NOAA Weather Radio?

NOAA Weather Radio receives National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts, and other hazard information 24 hours a day. (**NOAA Weather Radio Brochure (PDF)**)

What is the special-needs NOAA Weather Radio?

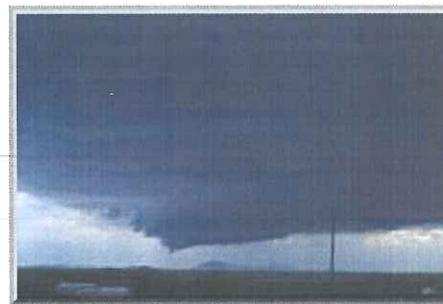
The **special-needs NOAA Weather Radio** was designed to adapt to the needs of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. The Radio can warn deaf and hard-of-hearing persons of hazardous conditions, giving them around-the-clock, up-to-the-minute weather information. The Radio is a weather alerting system that can be a lifesaver, much as the now commonly-used smoke detector with flashing light, for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons.

How does the radio meet the weather alerting needs of



deaf and hard-of-hearing persons?

- It provides visual and vibrating alarms and simple text readouts.
- Three warning lights indicate the level of alert (Statement, Watch, or Warning).
- Liquid crystal display readout indicates specific warning such as "Tornado Warning" or "Thunderstorm Warning".
- Programmable state/county selections screen out warnings for other areas.
- Accessible technology, now being developed, will enable deaf and hard-of-hearing persons to obtain NOAA Weather Radio alert messages in text format.
- The battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio can be portable at home, work, school or play, or while traveling, boating or camping.
- For deaf-blind persons and hearing-impaired persons with low-vision, special-needs NOAA Weather Radio receivers *may be* equipped with special adaptations which convert the weather messages into large print and/or Braille version without depending on volunteering reading services.



May 3, 1999
Oklahoma/Texas tornado outbreak. Photos © D. Zaras

What does the special-needs NOAA Weather Radio do in times of inclement weather?

When an alert is broadcast on the NOAA Weather Radio, it will send a signal which then activates one of the following accessories:

- **Pillow vibrator** to wake individuals from sleep.
- **Strobe light** to alert individuals during waking hours.
- **Bed shaker** to shake a bed to wake individuals up.

Where can you obtain information on the special-needs NOAA Weather Radio?

- WeatherRadios.com
- HomeSafe, Inc.
- Silent Call Communications Corporation
- Harris Communications, Inc.
- Compu TTY
- WeatherShack and WeatherShack Education Center, a comprehensive guide to weather measurement equipment, including operation, applications and set-up

The above links are provided for convenience and information only and do not constitute an endorsement of the products offered. See [Disclaimer](#)

In addition to using the radio, deaf and hard-of-hearing persons should educate themselves on weather safety. Where can they learn weather safety?

Weather safety education is highly recommended for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons to understand basic weather knowledge. This education is vital in preparing them to respond properly to weather threats. Contact your local [National Weather Service](#) office, your [state emergency management agency](#), the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#), or your [American Red Cross](#) chapter for weather safety information. It is recommended that you:

- Educate yourself concerning the threat and danger of various weather hazards.
- Familiarize yourself with weather warnings.
- Attend safety talks.
- Follow basic safety rules.
- Develop a family disaster plan for weather emergencies.

There are many excellent weather education sources containing detailed information on weather safety and various types of weather hazards on the Internet:

- **NWS Preparedness and Safety Information**
- **FEMA Preparedness Information**
- **USA Today Weather**
- **The Weather Channel**
- **The Tornado Project**
- **National Severe Storms Laboratory**
- **NOAA Safety Tips**
- **NOAA Education Weather for Kids and Students**
- **FEMA Safety Rules for Kids**
- **American Red Cross Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities**
- **Brochures and publications from NOAA organizations.** A few brochures are available in Braille form.
- **Emergency E-mail Network** is a national, free public service that can send you e-mail notification on natural disasters or other emergencies in your area.
- **Disaster Services foreign language materials** (American Red Cross)



Comments or questions about the Special-Needs NOAA Weather Radio may be sent to **Vincent Wood**.

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