



The University of Georgia

Office of Security & Emergency Preparedness

Using NOAA Weather Radios on Campus

Quick Tips:

- **Assignment** - Designate a person (and a back-up) who will be in charge of the radio to make sure that notifications are made, batteries are checked, and the unit is working properly.
- **Placement** - Place the unit near an exterior window (if possible) and extend the antenna to allow for a better signal.
- **Programmable** - Make sure the radio you buy has seven channels, an audible or visual warning alert feature, and a battery backup. Choose a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio model that incorporates Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) technology that lets you pre-select the alerts you want to receive based on the area where you live or work.
- **Notification** - Make sure that the person assigned to monitor the radio is familiar with the notification procedures to alert others in the department or building of the emergency.
- **Battery Backup** - Check the battery in your radio yearly and replace it as necessary. Use the statewide severe weather drill conducted every February as a reminder to check your radio's battery.
- **Portability** - Consider purchasing a radio model that is portable to allow it to be taken to the safe sheltering areas in your building. This will allow you to hear "all clear" messages.
- **Tests** - The National Weather Service (NWS) conducts monthly tests over the weather radios. Use these tests to ensure that you can hear the alert on your radio.
- **Volume** - Make sure the volume of the radio remains at a level where audible alerts can be heard in your office or department.
- **Call** - Please call our office should you have additional questions, need help programming your radio, or if you need assistance in identifying safe sheltering areas within your building.

Information:

- NOAA's radio network is an all-hazards system. It provides information 24/7 on watches and warnings for natural incidents such as floods, tornadoes, thunderstorms, winter storms, train derailments, AMBER alerts, and terrorist attacks.
- Non-weather emergency messages will be broadcast over the NOAA Weather Radio when: (1) public safety is involved, (2) the message comes from an official government source, and (3) time is critical.
- Remember the outdoor tornado sirens on campus are intended to notify those persons who are located outside during a tornado warning event. It is an added benefit if the outdoor sirens can be heard inside campus buildings. Please rely on other internal building notification methods when working on your severe weather emergency plan.
- Redundancy is critical for emergency notifications. Register for *UGAAAlert* at www.ugaalert.uga.edu and consider subscribing to a weather related Internet site that sends email updates for your zip code. (Examples include: Weather.com, Breaking Weather.com, WeatherBug.com, etc.)