

# National Weather Service Fact Sheet

## Weather Radio for North Texas

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### What is Weather Radio?

Weather Radio, also known as NOAA Weather Radio or NWR, is a 24-hour continuous broadcast of weather information. The broadcasts for north Texas originate from the National Weather Service Office in Fort Worth. NWR programming includes the seven-day forecast, hourly weather observations, weather outlooks, and safety information during weather awareness weeks. During times of hazardous weather, the programming also features watches, warnings, and updating statements. This information is broadcast within seconds after being issued by our forecasters.

### Weather Radio Coverage

The Fort Worth National Weather Service Office provides programming for over a dozen transmitters across north Texas. Each transmitter has a broadcast range of 20 to 40 miles. Visit our Weather Radio website at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/radio.html> to view the latest areas of coverage. The broadcasts are at a frequency of approximately 162.4 MHz, so a special receiver is needed to listen. These receivers are available at most electronic supply stores and some larger department and discount stores. If you are planning on purchasing a Weather Radio receiver, we recommend that your receiver have a battery backup, and that it have the SAME capability.



### Hazardous Weather Alarms

When a watch or warning for hazardous weather is issued from our office, the NWR transmitter sends out special alarm codes. These codes activate alarms on the Weather Radio receivers in the area. Older models of receivers had alarms which were activated by any watch/warning within the transmitter's broadcast area. This resulted in listeners receiving "unnecessary" alarms for events well away from them. Newer radio receivers have a technology called SAME, or Specific Area Message Encoding. SAME-capable receivers can be programmed to alarm only when watches or warnings are issued for specific counties.

### Automation Speeds the Process

Weather Radio programming is now provided by an automated text-to-speech system. While the computer-generated speech sometimes doesn't have the "warmth" of a human broadcaster, the system is very fast and efficient. It takes the automated broadcast system only about 9 seconds to ingest the text of a warning, determine the affected counties and radio transmitters, generate the alarm codes, synthesize the speech, and broadcast the warning over the air. This will give those in the storm's path as much time as possible to reach a safe shelter.

To learn more about the National Weather Service in Fort Worth, visit our website at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd>