

...FEBRUARY 4th IS MICHIGAN NOAA WEATHER RADIO ALL HAZARDS AWARENESS DAY...

February 4th has been declared NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Awareness Day in Michigan. All citizens are being urged to learn more about NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards and the potentially life-saving information broadcast by National Weather Service offices serving Michigan.

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards is a service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, part of the U.S. Department of Commerce. As the voice of the National Weather Service, it provides continuous broadcasts of the latest weather information from local National Weather Service offices. The NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards network has more than 1000 stations covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific territories. Overall, NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards covers over 95 percent of the population of the United States. In Michigan, NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards also covers nearly the entire state. NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards broadcasts from over 1000 transmitters on seven frequencies in the VHF band, ranging from 162.400 to 162.550 MegaHertz. These frequencies are outside of the normal AM and FM broadcast bands.

By nature and design, NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards coverage is limited to an area within 40 miles of the transmitter. The quality of what is heard is dictated by the distance from the transmitter, local terrain, and location of the receiver. People on flat terrain or at sea using a high quality receiver can sometimes receive the signal beyond 40 miles. However, the quality and availability of the signal may be compromised during unsettled weather. Those living in cities surrounded by large buildings as well as those in mountain valleys with standard receivers may experience little or no reception at less than 40 miles. If possible, a receiver should be tested in the location it will be used prior to purchase.

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards messages are repeated every 4 to 6 minutes and are routinely updated every 1 to 6 hours or more frequently in rapidly changing local weather. The regular broadcasts are specifically tailored to weather information needs of the people within the service area of the transmitter. For example, in addition to general weather information, stations in coastal areas and near the Great Lakes provide important information to mariners. Other specialized information such as hydrological forecasts and climatological data are also broadcast.

During severe weather or if a nearby hazardous environmental conditions exists, National Weather Service forecasters can interrupt the routine weather programming and broadcast special warning messages concerning imminent threats to life or property. The forecaster can also add signals to warnings that trigger alerting features of specially equipped NOAA Weather radio receivers. In the simplest case, this signal activates audible or visual alarms, indicating that an emergency condition exists within the broadcast areas of the station being monitored and alerts the listener to turn up the volume and stay tuned for more information. More sophisticated receivers can be programmed to receive alerts for specific user defined counties and/or alert types. These sophisticated receivers are automatically turned on and set to an audible volume when an alert is received.

You can get even more information about NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards as well as a national locator of all NOAA Weather Radio sites via the internet at:

<http://www.weather.gov/nwr>

To learn more about NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards in Michigan email your local National Weather Service Office. Listed below are the internet home pages of the four Michigan Weather Service offices and the Northern Indiana office...

Detroit/Pontiac:

Contact: Richard Pollman

richard.pollman@noaa.gov

<http://www.weather.gov/dtx>

Gaylord:

Contact: Jim Keysor

james.keysor@noaa.gov

<http://www.weather.gov/apx>

Grand Rapids:

Contact: Jim Maczko

james.maczko@noaa.gov

<http://www.weather.gov/grr>

Marquette:

Contact: Matthew Zika

matthew.zika@noaa.gov

<http://www.weather.gov/mqt>

Northern Indiana:

Contact: Michael Lewis

michael.lewis@noaa.gov

<http://www.weather.gov/iwx>