



# NOAA Radio

## Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) -Cost \$20-50

is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it your single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with Federal, State, and Local Emergency Managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages).



## FRS Camping Radios - \$25 and up

These are palm-sized walkie-talkies slide into a jacket pocket or clip onto your belt or backpack, and are meant to be family-friendly. Hand one to your kid running to the campground playground; communicate boat-to-boat with your fishing buddy; find your husband on a ski slope or a hiking trail. There are limitless uses for these new small, lightweight FRS/GMRS two-way radios.

**RANGE:** These Radios work one block up to 35 miles...but they are line of sight...meaning a radio advertised as 35 miles, might only work 1-2 miles with trees and buildings in the way, but work 35 miles if you are clear line of sight from each other.

**PROS AND CONS:** These are an inexpensive way to improve communication. They do need to be charged once in a while for them to be available when power is down, or buy ones that use batteries, and make sure you have batteries on hand. Their advertised range tends to be much smaller in neighborhoods, but still a great way to communicate in short distances.



## Amateur Radios - \$30 and up

These radios range from small walkie talkie looking radios up to table top radios with power converters and large antennas.

**RANGE:** 2m radios work up to 100 miles, although with working repeaters, you can talk all the way down to Utah. These radios you can use after you pass your first license test (Technician test). If you take a second test (General test), you can purchase radios that cost \$400+ but will give you access to talk to people all over the world.

**PROS:** These radios can run on all kinds of power alternatives...car batteries, AA batteries, small solar panel...all things you still might have access to if power is out. You have a much longer and dependable range to communicate.

**CONS:** You must take a test to get a license. (Sounds hard, but there are simple cheap classes, or online resources to study. Our kids studied for 3 days and passed at ages 10+.) These radio are a little harder to than a Family Radio which is made for any age to pick up and use.



## **Telephone (that is not wireless) \$5+**

These telephones don't need electricity. Landlines will last longer than cell phones in an emergency. Even if you don't have a landline, you can usually find a business or home that does. They might be willing to share if you come with a phone that is not wireless...and is working in a power outage.