



**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
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**National Weather Service announces radar outage during major upgrade**

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Beginning March 27, 2023, the KFCX WSR-88D, operated by NOAA's National Weather Service in Blacksburg, VA, will be down for approximately two weeks for an important upgrade. Technicians will refurbish and replace the pedestal, one of the most critical components of the radar. The number of pedestals completed to date are 125 of 167. These components are necessary for antenna rotation and positioning to capture data in all directions. The components are extremely heavy and will require the radome to be removed by crane and replaced when the work is completed. Unfortunately, because of safety concerns in a very tight space, only essential personnel will be allowed at the radar site during the upgrade.

The radar and pedestal were designed to last 25 years, and these components have exceeded their projected life-span. This activity is necessary to keep the radar functioning for another 20 years or more.

The pedestal refurbishment is the third major project of the WSR-88D Service Life Extension Program, a series of upgrades that will keep our nation's radars viable into the 2030s. NOAA's National Weather Service, the United States Air Force, and the Federal Aviation Administration are investing \$135 million in the eight year program. The first project was the installation of the new signal processor and the second project was the refurbishment of the transmitter. The fourth project will be the refurbishment of the equipment shelters. The Service Life Extension Program will be complete in 2023.

During the downtime, adjacent radars will be available, including: Charleston WV (KRLX); Greer, SC (KGSP); Morristown, TN (KMRX); Raleigh, NC (KRAX); Sterling, VA (KLWX); and Wakefield, VA (KAKQ). For direct access to any of these surrounding radar sites, visit the following web page: <https://radar.weather.gov/>

The KFCX WSR-88D is part of a network of 159 operational radars. The Radar Operations Center in Norman, OK provides lifecycle management and support for all WSR-88Ds.

The National Weather Service in Blacksburg, VA can be found on social media at: Facebook: NWSBlacksburg, and Twitter: @NWSBlacksburg.