

# Severe Weather Alerting Systems





## **National Weather Service Detroit / Pontiac**

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting National Weather Service (NWS) warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day. 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.



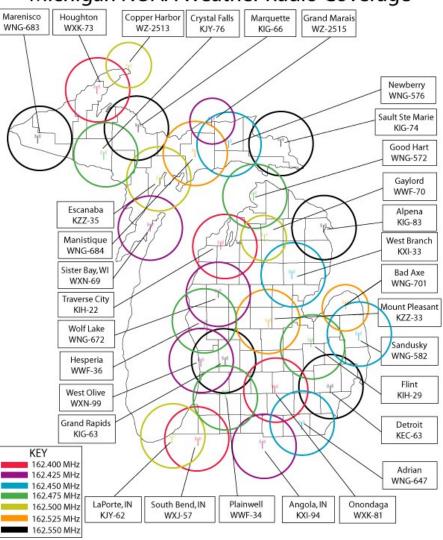
NWR broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards—both natural (such as tornadoes and winter storms) and environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills). Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), part of the Department of Commerce. NWR requires a special radio receiver or scanner capable of picking up the signal. These life saving receivers, that should be as common as home

smoke detectors, can be purchased at many retail stores and through Internet web sites that sell electronic merchandise. They are often available at boat and marine accessory outlets. Broadcasts are found in the public service band at 7 frequencies. NWR service depends on reliable signal reception, typically a 40 mile radius from the transmitter, assuming level terrain. Some areas, especially in mountainous areas, may not have reliable reception due to signal blockages or excessive distance from the transmitter. NWR Specific Area Message Encoder (SAME) receivers employ digital coding to automatically activate for specific weather or emergency conditions in specific areas (typically a county or portion of a county). You program SAME receivers for the county (or counties) and types of products you require. Your receiver will then automatically alert you only of weather and other emergencies in areas you programmed. SAME county code numbers are available or our website,

www.weather.gov/detroit

Your NWR receiver manufacturer instructions will describe how to select for particular types of products. Less sophisticated NWR receivers are equipped with the warning alarm/tone alert feature. These receivers will either sound an alarm, or when operated in mute mode, will automatically turn the volume on so the warning message may be heard.

## Michigan NOAA Weather Radio Coverage







Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) are messages sent to your mobile phone during an emergency. No sign-up is required.

#### What Kind of Alerts?

WEA are sent only during an emergency. They are sent by authorized government alerting authorities through your mobile carrier.

Types of alerts include:

- ✓ Extreme weather warnings
- ✓ Local emergencies requiring evacuation or immediate action
- ✓ AMBER Alerts
- ✓ Presidential Alerts during a national emergency.

The National Weather Service sends **WEA** messages for:

- ✓ Tornado, Severe Thunderstorm, & Flash Flood Warnings
- ✓ Hurricane, Typhoon, Extreme Wind and Storm Surge Warnings
- ✓ Dust Storm and Snow Squall Warnings ✓ Tsunami Warnings

WEA messages are relevant to your location – you only receive WEA messages when you and your cell phone are in the area of the emergency. If

#### What Do the Alerts Look Like?

www.weather.gov/detroit

WEA will look like a text message. The WEA message will typically show the type and time of the alert, any action you should take, and the government agency issuing the alert when you and your cell phone are in the area of the emergency. WEA messages include a special tone and vibration, both repeated twice.

### What Should I Do If I Receive an Alert?

Follow any action advised by the emergency message. Seek more details from your favorite TV or radio station, NOAA Weather Radio, news website,

- ♦ It is **important** to have **multiple ways** to receive severe weather warnings from the NWS!
- ♦ A Warning is issued when the specific hazard is a significant threat to public safety and/or property
- A Watch means conditions are favorable for the hazard but either the start time, probability of occurrence or location is uncertain.

National Weather Service Detroit/Pontiac, MI 9200 White Lake Rd.

White Lake, Michigan 48386

Phone: 248-625-3309

Email: w-dtx.webmaster@noaa.gov

## **Web Page & Social Media Resources**

**NWS Detroit Home Page** Weather-Ready Nation www.weather.gov/wrn

**NOAA** Weather Radio Weather Safety

www.weather.gov/safety www.weather.gov/nwr

**NWS National Home Page** Storm Prediction Center

www.weather.gov www.spc.noaa.gov

**NOAA Home Page** 

www.noaa.gov

NWSDetroit @NWSDetroit

