

National Weather Service announces radar outage during major upgrade

Beginning September 11, the Wilmington, OH WSR-88D operated by NOAA's National Weather Service in Wilmington, OH 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, which is 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.

The radar and pedestal were designed to last 25 years, and this radar has exceeded its life-span. This activity is necessary to keep the radar functioning for another 20 years or more.

The pedestal refurbishment is the last major project of the NEXRAD 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 for the Wilmington, OH radar was the installation of the new signal processor and the second project was the refurbishment of the transmitter. The third project was the refurbishment of the equipment shelters, with the last being upcoming pedestal refurbishment. The Service Life Extension Program will be complete in 2023.

During the downtime, adjacent radars that can be accessed include: Fort Wayne/Northern Indiana, Indianapolis, IN; Louisville, KY; Jackson, KY; Charleston, WV; Pittsburgh, PA and Cleveland, OH. In addition, FAA TDWRs near Cincinnati, OH; Dayton, OH and Columbus, OH may be used for weather detection and surveillance. For direct access to any of these surrounding radar sites, go to the following web page: <https://radar.weather.gov>. A single radar site can be viewed by going to the "Select View" menu option then clicking on "Local Radar" to select a single radar site.

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

For a radar mosaic loop: <https://radar.weather.gov>

The National Weather Service in Wilmington, OH can be found online at <https://www.weather.gov/iln/> and on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/NWSWilmingtonOH/> (Facebook) and <https://twitter.com/NWSILN> (Twitter).

Number of pedestals completed to date are 142 of 167.