As an "all hazards" radio network, NWR is a single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. NWR broadcasts emergency warning and post-event information for severe weather events and non-weather emergency events. Warning and post-event information is automatically broadcast to television radio broadcasters through the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) Emergency Alert System (EAS). NWR is the only federally-operated system broadcasting weather and emergency warnings to the public. Reception of NWR broadcasts depends on reliable signal reception. Typically a reliable signal can be received up to 40 miles from a station, assuming level terrain. However, NWS stations in mountainous and urban areas may experience reduced signal reception due to signal blockage.

SAME events are broadcast for both natural (such as tsunamis and volcanoes) and man-made (such as Amber Alerts, toxic chemical and biological releases, and terrorist attacks) events as necessary. NWR’s primary source of SAME data is the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). SAME geographic/county code numbers are assigned for NWS nearshore marine zones (see legend, bottom of poster). SAME code numbers are also assigned for NWS stations in mountainous and urban areas to overcome signal blockage issues.

SAME geographic/county code numbers are used to indicate the specific areas desired by that user. SAME geographic/county code numbers for all parts of the country are available by telephone or on the Internet (see contacts table). Broadcasts depend on reliable signal reception. Typically a reliable signal can be received up to 40 miles from a station, assuming level terrain. However, NWS stations in mountainous and urban areas may experience reduced signal reception due to signal blockage.

For those looking for the best performing NWR receivers, NWS recommends devices that have been certified to Public Alert™ standards. Public Alert™ performance standards were developed in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Consumer Technology Association (CTA), and the communications industry. These standards carry the Public Alert™ trademark. Public Alert™ receivers includeSAME, can be programmed for the type of events you desire, have audio and visual alarms, and can operate in a muted mode until activated by an emergency message. They also have battery back-up and can activate external alarm devices (strobe lights, sirens, bed shakers, etc.) for people with disabilities. A Public Alert™ receiver can be purchased at www.weather.gov/nwr/counties or by telephone or on the Internet (see contacts table). Broadcasts depend on reliable signal reception. Typically a reliable signal can be received up to 40 miles from a station, assuming level terrain. However, NWS stations in mountainous and urban areas may experience reduced signal reception due to signal blockage.

As an "all hazards" radio network, NWR is a single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. NWR broadcasts emergency warning and post-event information for severe weather events and non-weather emergency events. With radio receivers certified to Public Alert™ standards, emergency messages are automatically received and broadcast to television/radio broadcasters. The NWS developed the Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) for NWR. SAME is a digital code that is sent with many warnings, watches, and emergency events. The SAME includes the type of event, the applicable geographic area for the event, and how long the event is valid. SAME geographic/county code numbers are assigned for NWS nearshore marine zones (see legend, bottom of poster). SAME geographic/county code numbers are also assigned for NWS stations in mountainous and urban areas to overcome signal blockage issues.

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Additional information on Public Alert™ can be found on the CTA website at www.cta.org

Contacts for the NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Program

NWS Internet Website

To report transmitter problems, email nwroutage@noaa.gov, or call 1-888-886-1227.

For more information, visit the National Weather Service (NWS) website at http://www.weather.gov

January 2020