

What is NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio?

NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio, WXM-54, broadcasts on a frequency of 162.475 MHz from a transmitter in northwest Rio Grande County, serving the San Luis Valley and surroundings with weather information 24-hours a day from the National Weather Service in Pueblo.

The signal from the transmitting antenna to a receiver follows a direct line-of-sight path. With the varying terrain in the area, it's important to know if a receiver will be able to pull in the signal from where it is located. Reception is good to adequate in a part of southern Saguache County, eastern Mineral County, and Rio Grande, Alamosa, Conejos, and Costilla Counties.

To listen to the NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio broadcast, you should buy a receiver with all seven frequencies, which range from 162.400 to 162.550 MHz. That way, you can listen to any NOAA Weather Radio broadcast nationwide. The receiver should have a jack that allows you to attach an external antenna for best reception, a battery backup, and a warning alarm. A receiver with these features is priced around \$50.

NOAA Weather Radio Warning Alarm

The warning alarm on NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio is Specific Area Message Encoded (SAME). This means the warning alarm sounds only for those counties that you program into the unit. This feature will encourage more people to keep their receiver in standby mode, because they know it will only alarm when they are in imminent danger, not for a storm that is far away, or moving away from them.

The WXM-54 warning alarm will be activated for selected warnings, watches, and statements in effect for...

<u>County</u>	<u>SAME code</u>
Alamosa	008003
Conejos	008021
Costilla	008023
Mineral	008079
Rio Grande	008105
Saguache	008109

NOAA All Hazards Weather radio is an "all hazards" warning system. Through Federal, State, or local officials, the warning alarm can also be activated upon request for a wildfire episode, hazardous materials spill, etc., to help with an evacuation effort.

Tests of the warning alarm are conducted every Wednesday between 11 a.m. and Noon in cooperation with the Emergency Alert System, unless severe weather is in progress or is expected.

Weather Spotter Training and Public Safety Talks

NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio warns you of approaching severe weather. Most of the time the National Weather Service in Pueblo will issue a weather warning based on indications from our Doppler radar and before severe weather occurs. After we issue a warning, SKYWARN Weather Spotter reports from concerned citizens, like you, help to confirm the weather danger. Occasionally a weather spotter will alert the Pueblo office to severe weather events for which we have not yet issued a warning.

National Weather Service personnel conduct Weather Spotter training for emergency services, police and fire departments, amateur radio groups, and other interested public and private groups.

Weather Spotters provide the National Weather Service with valuable, real-time information during times of severe weather to help us provide timely warnings and updates. For information on scheduling a Weather Spotter training session, or a Public Safety session for the general public, contact:

National Weather Service
3 Eaton Way
Pueblo, CO 81001-4856
719-589-3232

WXM - 54 Programming

Never be caught unaware...

A typical NOAA Weather Radio program will run between three and five minutes, and will be repeated continually. Each segment of the broadcast is routinely updated every one to three hours or more frequently if needed.

The broadcast generally includes:

- * Regional weather forecasts and observations
- * The San Luis Valley area forecast and extended forecast
- * The Short Term Forecast (detailed event-driven forecast for the next few hours).
- * Climate data
- * Other extra features

Various watches and warnings are broadcast when necessary.

If you have questions concerning NOAA Weather Radio, please contact

National Weather Service
3 Eaton Way
Pueblo, Colorado 81001-4856
719-573-6846

Severe Weather Terminology

Tornado Watch: Issued when tornadoes are possible. Think about what you would do to keep yourself and those around you safe in the event of a tornado. Watch the sky for approaching storms.

Tornado Warning: Issued when a tornado is indicated by radar or has been reported by trained weather spotters. Immediately go to the place of safety you thought of earlier.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch: Issued when severe thunderstorms are possible. Think about what you would do to keep yourself and those around you safe in the event of severe weather. Watch the sky for approaching storms.

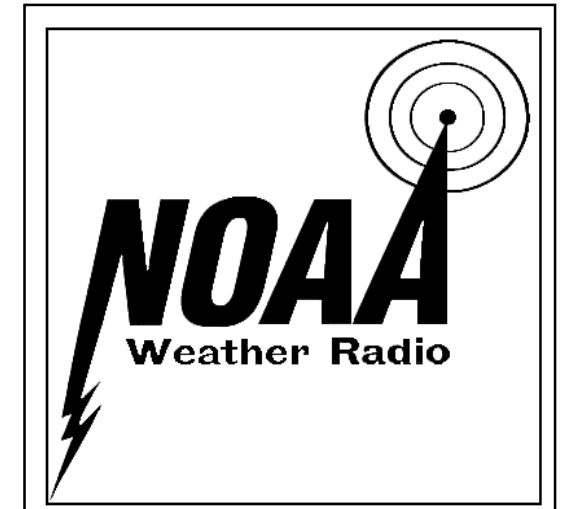
Note: A *severe thunderstorm* is one that is bringing, or is expected to bring one inch diameter (quarter-size) or larger hail, or winds of 58 mph and higher.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning: Issued when a severe thunderstorm is indicated by radar or has been reported by trained weather spotters. Immediately go to the place of safety you thought of earlier.

Flash Flood Watch: Issued when flash flooding is possible. Think about what you would do to keep yourself and those around you safe in the event of flooding. Be alert for signs of flash flooding and be ready to go to higher ground at a moments notice.

Flash Flood Warning: Issued when flash flooding is imminent. Act quickly and go to higher ground!

Blizzard Warning: Issued when a blizzard, 35 mph winds and visibility < 1/4 mile is imminent.



WXM - 54 for
**San Luis
Valley area**

**“The Voice of the
National Weather Service”**