

## KMTX Radar Near Salt Lake City Outage During Major Upgrade

May 2024

Beginning June 3, the KMTX weather radar on Promontory Point near Salt Lake City operated by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) 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 (i.e. the outer cover of the radar resembling a soccer ball) to be removed by a 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 work is necessary to keep the radar functioning for another 20 years or more.

The pedestal refurbishment is the final major project of the NEXRAD Service Life Extension Program (SLEP) applied to KMTX. The NEXRAD SLEP is a series of upgrades that will keep our nation's radars viable into the 2030s. The NWS, the United States Air Force, and the Federal Aviation Administration are investing \$135 million in the eight year program. The previous SLEP projects at KMTX included the installation of a new signal processor, the refurbishment of the transmitter, refurbishment of the equipment shelters, and replacement of the generator. The Service Life Extension Program will be completed nationwide this year.

During the downtime, adjacent radars will be available, including: TSLC near Farmington, Utah; KICX near Cedar City, Utah; KRLX near Elko, Nevada; KSFX near Pocatello, Idaho; and KGJX near Grand Junction, Colorado. For direct access to any of these surrounding radar sites, visit [radar.weather.gov/](https://radar.weather.gov/).

The KMTX radar is part of a nationwide network of 159 operational radars. These radars, known as "WSR-88D" or "NEXRAD," can detect precipitation location, intensity, and type, along with direction of movement. The Radar Operations Center in Norman, Oklahoma, provides lifecycle management and support for all WSR-88Ds.

The NWS Weather Forecast Office in Salt Lake City, Utah, can be found on Facebook and X/Twitter under the handle @NWSSaltLakeCity.

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