

Warning the Public with NOAA Weather Radio

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Environmental Emergency Services, Inc. of Chemung and Steuben Counties, New York, is working to insure that hazard warnings are disseminated widely throughout their two county area. A local partnership with the National Weather Service enabled the installation of two new NOAA Weather Radio transmitters, which now provide coverage to areas previously unable to receive the “Voice of the National Weather Service.”

NOAA Weather Radio is a nationwide network of radio stations that broadcast local National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts, and other hazard information 24 hours a day. During an emergency, routine weather programming is interrupted by a signal that activates weather radios in the listening area. A special message then provides critical information targeted to the specific area. This enables the public to receive timely notification of potentially life-threatening situations, such as tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, flash flooding, severe winter weather, or a chemical release.

A special radio receiver or scanner is needed to pick up the NOAA Weather Radio signal, which is outside of the normal AM/FM radio bands. NOAA Weather Radios are available from stores that sell electronics, with prices ranging from about \$20 to \$80. This could be a perfect--even lifesaving--gift for someone you care about.

Environmental Emergency Services, Inc. of Chemung and Steuben Counties is encouraging placement of a NOAA Weather Radio in every home and public place, just like a smoke detector. In addition, they are purchasing Weather Radio receivers for “at-risk” locations, such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools, daycare facilities, group homes, and senior centers. These facilities will then have direct and immediate access to emergency information that may be needed to save lives and protect property. Funding to purchase the radios will be provided by a legislative initiative grant, awarded by New York State Senator John Randy Kuhl, Jr.

More information about NOAA Weather Radio and the broadcast frequencies for your area is available from your local Weather Service office or through the Internet at <http://www.weather.gov/nwr>.