



Lincoln County Department of Public Safety

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Severe Weather Awareness Week Reminder: NOAA Weather Radios Save Lives

The Lincoln County Department of Public Safety – Office of Emergency Management Agency (EMA) supports the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and the National Weather Service (NWS) in observing February 1-7, as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Georgia.

"Encouraging local residents to install a NOAA weather radio in their home is our focus for Monday, February 2, day two of the week-long observance," said local Public Safety Director Ernie Doss.

Director Doss recommends the placement of these life-saving devices in every structure where people gather. "Every building needs a NOAA weather radio so the people inside can receive immediate severe weather or emergency information, when minutes or even seconds count, day or night. This early warning can be the difference between life and death," said the director.

NOAA weather radio is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information direct from a nearby National Weather Service office. NOAA weather radio broadcasts National Weather Service watches, warnings, forecasts, and other hazard information 24 hours a day.

Some weather radios are equipped with a special tone feature, which can sound an alert and give you immediate information about a life threatening situation. During an emergency, the National Weather Service will interrupt routine weather radio programming and send out a special tone that activates weather radios in the warning area.

Recently, a radio that can handle the Emergency Alert Signal was introduced. The Specific Area Message Encoder (SAME) tone alert can be set up to only sound for a single county. This cuts down on the number of unwanted tones you receive, and, for example, alerts you only when a life threatening situation exists in Lincoln County.

In Georgia, there are 23 transmitters broadcasting throughout the state. Seven frequencies are reserved for NOAA weather radio on the public service band. These frequencies range between 162.400 megahertz and 162.550 megahertz. Broadcast range is approximately 40 miles, but the effective range depends on terrain, quality of the receiver, and indoor/outdoor antennas.

Today, approximately 98 percent Georgia's population lives within range of a NOAA weather radio transmitter. This figure represents a 58 percent increase from ten years ago.

"Signal reception is almost 100 percent statewide, so if you don't have a weather radio in your home, please buy one immediately. It could save your family," Director Doss urges.

To make sure your area is covered, check this listing of all NOAA weather radio transmitters and corresponding frequencies in Georgia:

Ashburn	162.450 MHz
Americus	162.425 MHz
Athens	162.400 MHz
Atlanta	162.550 MHz
Augusta	162.550 MHz
Baxley	162.525 MHz
Blakely	162.525 MHz
Blue Ridge	162.475 MHz
Brasstown Bald	162.500 MHz
Brunswick	162.425 MHz
Buchanan	162.425 MHz
Chatsworth	162.400 MHz
Clayton	162.450 MHz
Cleveland	162.525 MHz
Columbus	162.400 MHz
Eastman	162.400 MHz
Eatonton	162.525 MHz
Jesup	162.450 MHz
La Grange	162.450 MHz
Macon	162.475 MHz
Metter	162.425 MHz
Pelham	162.550 MHz
Sandersville	162.450 MHz
Savannah	162.400 MHz
Summerville	162.450 MHz
Thomaston	162.500 MHz
Toccoa	162.425 MHz
Valdosta	162.500 MHz
Washington	162.500 MHz
Waycross	162.475 MHz
Waynesboro	162.425 MHz

For more information, contact Lincoln County Department of Public Safety at 706-359-5518 or visit these Web sites: www.gema.ga.gov, www.srh.noaa.gov/ffc/ or www.redcross.org.

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