

WEATHER RADIOS SAVE LIVES



Thunderstorms, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, bomb scares, chemical spills and wildfires. These are just a few of the potential hazards in Lake County.

Having a battery operated, tone-alert NOAA Weather Radio in your home is like having your own personal tornado siren – only it will alert you of all these impending dangers. In every home, a weather radio should be as common as a smoke detector.

A weather radio broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other non-weather related hazard information 24 hours a day. During an emergency, the weather service forecasters interrupt routine broadcasts and send a special tone activating local weather radios. Weather radios equipped with a special alarm tone feature sound an alert to give you immediate information about a life-threatening situation.

Local SAME* code

**Specific Area Message Encoding*

County	SAME Code	County	SAME Code
Lake	012069	Polk	012105
Marion	012083	Seminole	012117
Orange	012095	Sumter	012119
Osceola	012097	Volusia	012127

Local Frequencies

Transmitter	Channel	VHF Frequency
Daytona Beach	channel 1	162.400
Orlando	channel 4	162.475
Sumterville	channel 5	162.500



AlertLake is Lake County's public safety warning system capable of warning Lake County residents of an immediate emergency, such

as a missing person, hazardous materials spill, law enforcement advisories and wildfire and tornado warnings issued by the National Weather Service. Alerts can be sent to your home, cellular and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones as well as email accounts.

Current landline telephone users (listed and unlisted) are already registered. Residents can register multiple cellular phone numbers and email addresses. To register for AlertLake, log on to www.lakecountyfl.gov, keyword search "AlertLake."

STOCK A DISASTER-SUPPLY KIT

When a disaster strikes, it may not leave your family much time to prepare. After a disaster, local emergency officials and relief workers will be on the scene, but they will not be able to reach everyone immediately. It could take hours or even days before help can get to your neighborhood. Preparing a disaster supply kit will help your family better cope with the situation. Some necessary items in every disaster supply kit include:

- One gallon of water per person for five days
- Enough non-perishable food for the household for at least five days
- A non-electric can opener; cooking tools and fuel; paper plates & towels; and plastic utensils & cups
- Toiletries, such as toothpaste and brush; deodorant and soap; shaving equipment; personal hygiene supplies; shampoo; wash cloth and towel; and toilet paper
- Garbage bags, resealable plastic bags and tarps
- Supplies for infants, including diapers and formula
- Supplies for senior citizens, including special dietary considerations and incontinence pads
- At least a two-week supply of prescribed family medicines, as well as a typical first-aid kit with bandages, antibiotic cream, headache medicine and antacids
- Blankets, pillows, extra clothing
- Battery-powered NOAA weather radio, HDTV and flashlight; and extra batteries
- A waterproof container with extra cash and important documents, such as insurance, bank account and Social Security cards
- A list of important phone numbers including the family's local pharmacy, doctors and designated contacts the family can call in case of an emergency
- Camera to record damage to property
- Rain gear and hard sole shoes
- Cleaning supplies and equipment
- Pet supplies including food water and medicines

LAKE COUNTY/FLORIDA Emergency Management

LEARNING ABOUT FLOODS

352-343-9420



LAKE COUNTY
FLORIDA

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION
425 W. Alfred St., Tavares, Florida 32778-7800

Phone: 352-343-9420

Fax: 352-343-9728

Email: disasterready@lakecountyfl.gov or
alertlake@lakecountyfl.gov

Web: www.lakecountyfl.gov, keyword: emergency

LOCAL FLOOD HAZARD

Flooding in Lake County may be caused by heavy rainfall that occurs in short periods, as is common during seasonal storms. Tropical storms and hurricanes can also cause flooding not just along a coastline but far inland as well. With Lake County's location between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean and its low-lying areas, there is always a flood threat from heavy storms.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has identified portions of the County as a Special Flood Hazard Area on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Residents of unincorporated Lake County can contact the Lake County Department of Public Works at 352-483-9081 to request a flood determination document or view flood maps online at www.lakecountyfl.gov. In addition, on-site visits and technical assistance are provided to residents who are experiencing problems in areas of flooding and drainage. For more information, call 352-483-9090.

PREPARE YOUR HOME

There are different reasons a community may flood; storm surge, river flooding or heavy rainfall. Low-lying or poorly drained areas can also increase a community's flood risk. Due to the relatively flat terrain across Florida, it is complicated to drain accumulated water. When rivers rise, water tends to spread out far from riverbanks. Consider these tips to safeguard your home:

- Avoid building in a floodplain. If you are in a floodplain elevate and reinforce your home.
- Elevate the furnace, water heater and electric panel if susceptible to flooding.
- Install "check valves" in sewer traps to prevent floodwater from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Construct barriers (levees, berms, floodwalls) to stop floodwater from entering the building.
- Plan for the protection of pets and livestock.
- Elevate furniture above the flood protection level.
- Create floodway openings in non-habitable areas, such as garages.
- Seal off sewer lines to prevent the backflow of sewer water.
- Use sand bags to reduce erosion and prevent floodwaters from encroaching into structures.

DURING A FLOOD

- Listen to a battery-operated NOAA weather radio and news reports on television and AM/FM radio.
- Remember that a flood watch means flooding is possible. A flood warning means flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons and other areas known to flood suddenly.
- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive in flood areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground, if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be swept away.
- Floodwaters will not drown fire ants. Instead, their colonies will actually emerge from the soil, form a loose ball, float and flow with the water until they reach a dry area or object that they can crawl up on.

CREATE A FAMILY-DISASTER PLAN

When a disaster strikes, there may not be much time to act. Preparing now for an emergency will give you and your family time to react safely and in a well thought-out manner. A plan of action for you and your family can go a long way toward reducing potential suffering from any type of disaster that could strike. A few tips to preparing a family-disaster plan include:

- Plans should be kept simple. The best emergency plans are those that are easy to remember.
- Plan for your pets. If you must evacuate your home, it is always best to take your pets with you.
- Be familiar with escape routes in case you need to evacuate your neighborhood. Plan several escape routes for different situations. Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster. Instruct household members to turn on the radio or television for emergency information.
- Select one calling point, possibly a friend or relative, where family members can contact, if they are separated from the rest of the family.
- Learn and post emergency phone numbers and information.
- Take a basic first aid and CPR class.
- Stock a disaster-supply kit.

DRIVING FLOOD FACTS

- Almost half of all flash flood fatalities occur in vehicles.
- Pooling of water poses a significant risk, not as much from swift moving water, but more from one's inability to judge water depth. Water only inches deep can be next to water that is several feet deep.
- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- A foot of water will float many vehicles.
- Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles and pick-up trucks.
- If you come upon a barricaded or flooded road, turn around.
- Drive around flooded intersections.

AFTER A FLOOD

- Learn for news reports to learn whether the community's water supply is safe to drink.
- Avoid floodwaters; water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline or sewage. Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Avoid moving water.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Stay away from downed power lines and report them to the power company.
- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.
- Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there may be hidden damage, particularly in foundations.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals.
- Discard canned, bottled or sealed-in-plastic food items that have been dented or dislodged and knocked into things.
- Dangerous materials found in flooded homes may include pesticides, fuel oil, gasoline, chemicals and other substances that might have been brought in or spilled by floodwaters.