Programming a Weather Radio Receiver

Dave Jacobs

National Weather Service

Melbourne, Florida

Note: These instructions use a weather radio receiver commonly used in central Florida, and use information valid only for a specific area. While the general concepts will be valid for any weather radio, the specifics may vary. Please consult your user's manual, and our website, for more information.

Programming a Weather Radio SAME Receiver

A SAME (<u>S</u>pecific <u>A</u>rea <u>M</u>essage <u>E</u>ncoder) Weather Radio Receiver picks up weather broadcasts from the National Weather Service.

The SAME feature allows you to program your radio to automatically sound an alarm when a weather watch or warning is issued for your area.

<u>But it will not work if not correctly programmed.</u>

Programming a Weather Radio SAME Receiver

In order for your SAME radio to work correctly, you'll need to know:

1. The channel (or frequency) of the nearest weather radio broadcasting station.

2. The special code number for your county.

Programming a Weather Radio SAME Receiver

Where is the information I need?

http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mlb/nwr1.html

As an example, let's assume that you live in Orlando, Florida. We'll program your radio to receive the Orlando weather radio broadcast, and to provide alerts when watches or warnings are issued for Orange County.

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards

Click here for central Florida coverage areas

Click here for central Florida county code numbers

New NWR Station KPS-505, located in Sumterville (Sumter County), is on the air.

KPS-505 provides much improved weather radio reception to The Villages, and other locations in western Lake County.

KPS-505 will send alarms for Sumter, Marion, Lake, Citrus and Hernando Counties.

The frequency for the new NWR transmitter is 162.500 MHZ (Channel 5 on most receivers).

The NWR Tone Alert feature and SAME data burst is routinely tested every Wednesday between 11AM and Noon for the Daytona Beach, Orlando, Melbourne and Ft. Pierce stations. In the event of bad weather on the test day, the test will be postponed. We also test between 6PM and 8PM on Wednesday evenings.

maps, and the geographic areas which the transmitters serve to see which radio
is best to receive warnings for your area.

KIH26 - Daytona Beach
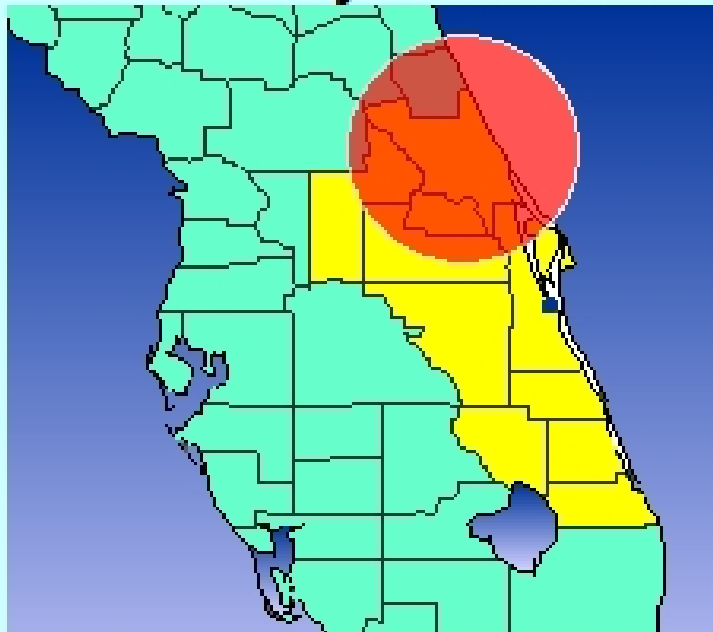
162.4 Mhz   (Channel 1)   1000 Watts

KIH63 - Orlando
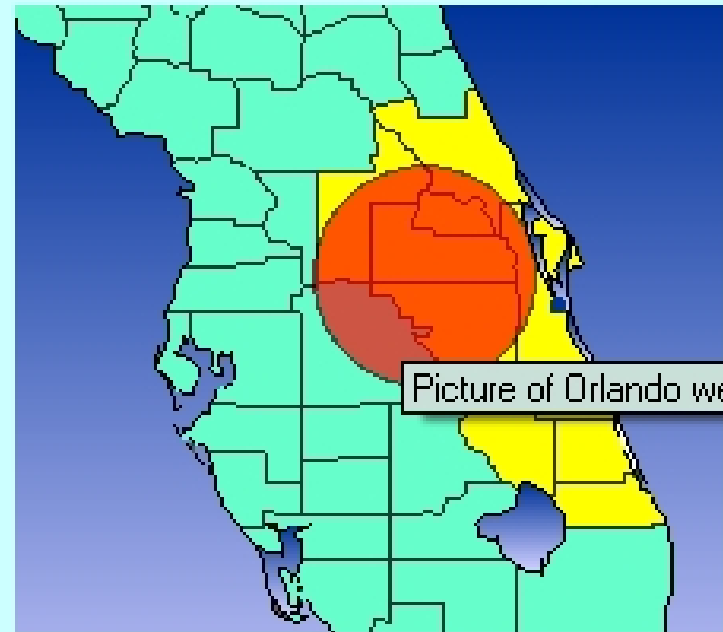
Picture of Orlando weather rad

162.475 Mhz   (Channel 4) 1000 Watts

Warnings broadcast for these counties:
Lake, Brevard, Orange, Seminole,
Putnam, Volusia, Flagler

Click here for a detailed coverage map.

Warnings broadcast for these counties:
Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Polk,
Volusia.

Click here for a detailed coverage map.

Programming a Weather Radio SAME Receiver

So now we know…

There is a transmitter which covers the Orlando area.

The frequency is 162.475 mHz, which is channel 4 on most weather radio receivers.

The broadcast from this transmitter will alert my receiver for Orange County (among others listed)

Now back to the web page for the county code…

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards

Click here for central Florida coverage areas

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FIPS Codes:

Area	County Code
Lake County	0 1 2 0 6 9
Volusia County	0 1 2 1 2 7
Seminole County	0 1 2 1 1 7
Brevard County	0 1 2 0 0 9
Orange County	0 1 2 0 9 5
Osceola County	0 1 2 0 9 7
Okeechobee County	0 1 2 0 9 3
Indian River County	0 1 2 0 6 1
St. Lucie County	0 1 2 1 1 1
Martin County	0 1 2 0 8 5
Polk County *	0 1 2 1 0 5
Putnam **	0 1 2 1 0 7
Flagler **	0 1 2 0 3 5

Programming a Weather Radio SAME Receiver

So now we know…

There is a transmitter which covers the Orlando area.

The frequency is 162.475 mHz, which is <u>channel 4</u> on most weather radio receivers.

The broadcast from this transmitter will alert my receiver for Orange County (among others listed)

And the code for Orange County is <u>012095</u>

Programming a Weather Radio SAME Receiver

Now, let's program this information into a typical NOAA
Weather Radio Receiver. Make sure your radio is
plugged in, turned on, and has fresh batteries.

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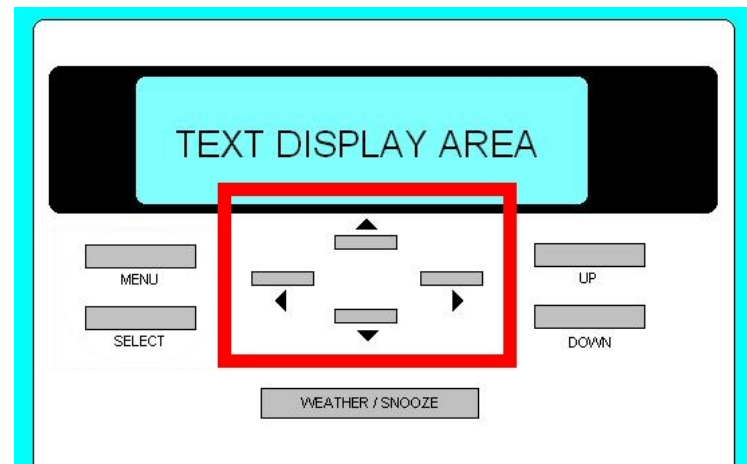
Programming a Weather Radio SAME Receiver

The buttons we'll typically be using are shown below:

The MENU and SELECT Buttons
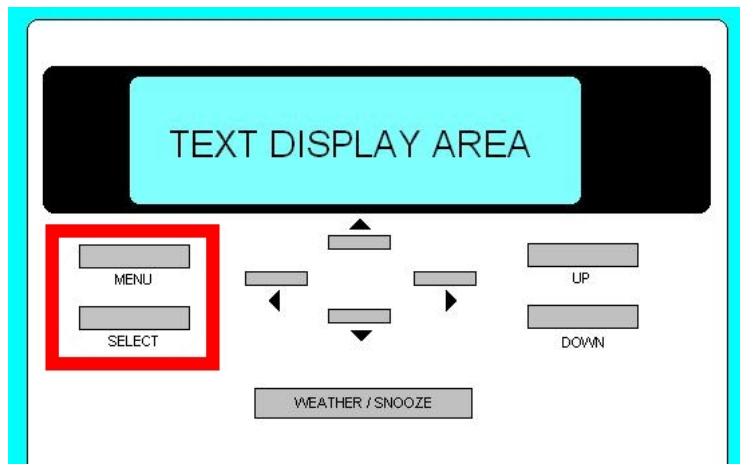
The UP, DOWN, LEFT, RIGHT Buttons

We'll see the selections and results in the TEXT DISPLAY AREA

Programming a Weather Radio SAME Receiver

First, let's set the frequency (or channel)…

Recall that frequency for the Orlando weather radio station is 162.475, which is channel 4.

1. Press the MENU Button, "TIME" is displayed in text area

2. Press the UP arrow button until "CHANNEL" is displayed.

Programming a Weather Radio SAME Receiver

Setting the frequency (or channel)…

Recall that frequency for the Orlando weather radio station is 162.475, which is channel 4.

3. Press the SELECT Button, a channel and frequency are shown. The channel number is on the left.

4. Press the UP or DOWN arrow buttons until "4" is displayed. As you scroll to the correct channel, you should hear the radio broadcast.

You may hear more than one channel. Generally, the channel with the clearest reception will be the best.

Programming a Weather Radio SAME Receiver

Setting the County Code (FIPS code)…
Recall the code for Orange County is 012095

5. Press the "SELECT" Button, and then the UP arrow button. "SAME SET" is shown in the TEXT DISPLAY.

6. Press "SELECT" again. "SINGLE" is shown in the TEXT DISPLAY.

You may enter more than one County Code, but only those which the radio station covers.

Programming a Weather Radio SAME Receiver

Setting the County Code (FIPS code)…

Recall the code for Orange County is 012095

7. 6 digits will be displayed in the TEXT WINDOW. These digits must be changed to the county code.

8. The first digit will be blinking. Using the UP and DOWN arrow buttons, you can raise or lower the digit to the correct value, which must be set to a zero for Orange County.

Each digit displayed can be changed by first using the LEFT or RIGHT arrow buttons to select the digit, and then the UP and DOWN arrow buttons to change the value.

Set the number to 012095

Programming a Weather Radio SAME Receiver

You have now set up your NOAA Weather Radio receiver to receive severe weather alerts, and routine weather broadcasts for Orlando, in Orange County, Florida.

If you live in a different area you will need to determine the channel number of the weather radio station nearest you, and the code for your county.

The weather radio alerts are tested on Wednesday (unless the weather is bad). Check your radio around 11:30 AM on Wednesdays to see if it has received to the test.

Programming a Weather Radio SAME Receiver

If you have questions about programming your weather radio receiver, or questions about the broadcasts in general, please contact the NWS Office in Melbourne at 321-255-0212

If you prefer to use e-mail:

David.jacobs@noaa.gov   or   dennis.decker@noaa.gov

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