

NWR Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME)

NOAA, National Weather Service
Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services

Using NWR SAME

After buying an NWR [SAME](#) receiver, you must program your county, parish or independent city or marine area into the radio. Do NOT program your radio for louder or clearer station not designated as a SAME channel. You will not receive alert. Your NWR will then alert you **only** of weather and other emergencies for the county(s)/ area(s) programmed. NWR receivers without the SAME capability alert for emergencies anywhere within the coverage area of the NWR transmitter, typically several counties, even though the emergency could be well away from the listener.

- When an NWS office broadcasts a warning, watch or non-weather emergency, it also broadcasts a digital SAME code that may be heard as a very brief static burst, depending on the characteristics of the receiver. This SAME code contains the type of message, county(s) affected, and message expiration time.
- A programmed NWR SAME receiver will turn on for that message, with the listener hearing the 1050 Hz warning alarm tone as an attention signal, followed by the broadcast message.
- At the end of the broadcast message, listeners will hear a brief digital end-of-message static burst followed by a resumption of the NWR broadcast cycle.

SAME is also used in the Emergency Alert System (EAS). See [EAS fact sheet](#) for more information. Using SAME, broadcasters may receive NWR warning messages for rebroadcast in accordance with [EAS rules](#).

Programming Your Receiver

To program NWR SAME receivers with the proper county(s) and marine area(s) of choice, you need to know the 6-digit SAME code number(s) for that county(s). Once you have the number, follow the directions supplied the manufacturer of your NWR SAME receiver for programming. The number is available two ways:

- Online at the United States and Territories Table. <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/indexnw.htm>
- By telephone at 1-888-NWR-SAME (1-888-697-7263) for a voice menu.