



# PRESS RELEASE

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## RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO BUY EMERGENCY WEATHER RADIOS

The Santa Cruz County Office of Response, Recovery and Resilience (OR3) in collaboration with Santa Cruz Regional 9-1-1 are adding a new tool for alerts and warnings during disasters.

OR3 is encouraging residents living in high fire danger areas to consider purchasing NOAA All Hazards Weather Radios as the County heads into peak fire season. The radios will give residents access to important emergency notifications and information distributed through the National Weather Service radio system specifically tailored by County Emergency Managers, and will supplement CodeRED, Zonehaven and other community alert systems in place throughout Santa Cruz County. The radios can operate on batteries, solar or via a hand crank, and thus remain effective despite power outages or any loss of cellular service.

“Since many residents rely on power to access cellular, landline, or other social media notification resources, adding weather radios as an alert and warning tool helps expand our ability to reach residents and give them critical information during a disaster,” OR3 Director Dave Reid said.

The radios are widely available at retailers and online, and typically cost \$20-\$40. Look for the symbol at right. The County is also exploring grants to purchase radios to distribute to the disadvantaged community members at low or no cost.



All residents should sign up for CodeRED notifications by visiting [www.scr911.org](http://www.scr911.org) and clicking on the CodeRED banner. Residents may also download the CodeRED app. Residents should also know their evacuation zone by visiting <https://community.zonehaven.com/> and entering their address in the search bar.

To learn more about local hazards and how to prepare you and your family (including pets), visit the OR3 “Plan and Prepare” page at <https://santacruzcounty.us/OR3/Response/PlanandPrepare.aspx>.

All Hazards Weather Radios are not a replacement for emergency notifications. However, they can provide critical information should residents experience power outages or other communications breakdowns during emergencies.