DO I NEED A HAND-CRANK OR NOAA WEATHER RADIO?

Ready.gov lists both a battery-powered or hand-crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert in its basic kit. NOAA Weather Radio is a nationwide network that broadcasts continuous weather information, so it works when the internet and cell towers do not.

THE STEPS

01 Choose a radio that runs on batteries or a hand crank, and that can receive NOAA Weather Radio.

02 Keep it with your kit, with fresh batteries stored separately.

03 Tune to your local NOAA Weather Radio station and test it each season.

04 Use a second source of information, as Flathead County advises.

THE CHECKLIST

- ☐ Radio with NOAA band
- ☐ Extra batteries
- ☐ Station written on paper
- ☐ A calendar reminder to test it

Sources: Ready.gov, Build a Kit; NOAA National Weather Service, NOAA Weather Radio; Flathead County OES, Preparedness. Last reviewed November 17, 2026. General planning information, not medical, legal or financial advice.