

WEATHER RADIOS: Buying Tips & more...

- FREE WEATHER RADIO PROGRAMMING - Courtesy of Sun City's Amateur Radio Society

*Sun City ham radio operators can program your weather radio for you! Email SCARS via the website 'Contact Form' tab on the lower right of SCARS home page, and we will set up an appointment. You will need your **weather radio, plug-in A/C power adapter, fresh batteries, and your instruction book if available. You will be asked to meet a ham prior to our monthly meeting at the Sun City Activity Center-Texas Dr. the first Wed. of each month.***

Weather Radio Buying Tips: There are several great choices and numerous brands out there, with prices starting at around \$30-\$50. *Tip: Buy the simplest model that meets your needs and leave the 'bells & whistles' behind. Consider where you'll be using the radio and a comfortable price range for you.* *From a reliability and simplicity standpoint, Sun City hams have found that Midland Radio Corp. weather radios are 'first mentions' and seem to be the 'most-used' brand here. They're simple to operate, easy to program (following the directions), have battery backup, and are loud with visual warning options for the hearing impaired. Midland Radio has been in business for over a half-century and manufactures other radios and communications equipment.

***THE WEATHER RADIO SCARS RECOMMENDS: Midland WR-120EZ**



Midland WR120B/WR120EZ NOAA Weather Alert All Hazard Public Alert Certified Radio

– Midland's best-selling 'white' table-top Weather Radio. operates on supplied A/C converter, has battery backup, and can be programmed to receive specific Williamson County alerts (and/or other surrounding or home counties as well). Can also be programmed to receive or ignore specific alerts. Suggested Retail: around \$39.95 – *lower pricing available, shop around.*

Other Brands & Radios: There are plenty of other brands of weather radios as well--Eton, Sangean, Cobra, Uniden, and others--that offer higher-end scanners and other FRS/GMRS/CB 2-way radios with weather radio features included. Best to shop around if you prefer a more complex, multi-purpose radio, etc. Check online at Amazon.com or Midlandusa.com or locally/online at HEB, Best Buy, Walmart, et al.

WEATHER RADIO DO-IT-YOURSELF PROGRAMMING TIPS: If you already have a weather radio and can program it yourself, dig out the instruction sheets, and below are the codes you'll need:

- **Williamson County S.A.M.E. (Specific Area Message Encoding) Code: 048491**
- **Weather Channel: 162.400 Mhz. – best reception in Sun City**

See the Video how-to online at <https://midlandusa.com/pages/weather-radio-help>

Final Tip: Already have a programmed weather radio and it isn't working correctly? Try this:

1. **Change your batteries.** Most radios we examine just need fresh new batteries. Choose alkaline, and change them out once a year--so you're ready for that next emergency or power outage.
2. **Poor reception?** If your radio cannot receive radio transmissions, it simply won't work. Position it near a window, or 'walk' the radio around the house until you find the area(s) of best reception.