



Getting Major Fire Event Alerts NOAA Weather Radios All Hazards



Fire Safe Occidental believes it is essential to receive alerts about major fire events as soon as possible. The best way to do this that doesn't require cell-phone service, Internet service or hearing a distant fire siren is to own and use an All Hazards Alert NOAA Weather Radio with the SAME (Specific Area Message Encoding) feature. With the SAME feature you program the radio with what County you are in and what alerts you want to hear and not hear.

It is also important that you can receive these alerts when you are asleep, even if there is no house line power. These radios therefore provide for a battery backup, and the alert siren is loud enough to wake you up or be heard in another part of your home.

Fire Safe Occidental has reviewed and tested several radios of this type and specifically recommends the Sangean CL-100 as our choice of best-in-class. Several other SAME radios from Midland Radio Corp. will also work, specifically models WR300 and WR400.

We are arranging for the Sangean CL-100 to be available at Occidental Hardware for your convenience, although this may take a while to happen. Of course you may purchase any of these radios online or in many larger stores as they are all commercial products that are widely sold. For example, the Sangean CL-100 is currently available through Amazon for approximately \$56.

Programming your Sangean CL-100 is easily done by reading the manual but Fire Safe Occidental will provide a short, easy-to-understand set of instructions on its website: firesafeoccidental.org

You can learn about this type of radio at:

www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/

You can learn about the S.A.M.E. feature at:

www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/info/nwrsame.html

Backup Batteries

Your All Hazards Weather Radio requires batteries to provide backup power during a power outage. It is wise to use the best batteries available, as they will last longer.

The Sangean CL-100 uses a slight amount of battery power when the radio is turned on (if it is just listening for SAME Alerts it doesn't use power), so it is important to not leave it on indiscriminately and to always remember that for an emergency alert device it is essential to test batteries periodically.

It is recommended that you check the Sangean CL-100 backup batteries once a month to make sure they are ok. You don't need a battery tester, just pull the power cord connector out of the back of the radio and a battery display will light up telling you how much power is left. Then re-plug the power cord back into the radio.

We recommend Energizer Ultimate Lithium AA batteries (the radio uses 4 of them). These batteries are very long lived, and have a shelf life of 20 years with no leakage. These are great batteries for your Go-Bag assuring that you will have dependable batteries.

Programming the Sangean CL-100

The following minimum features need to be programmed in the Sangean CL-100:

Select the local Weather Band Channel (WZ-2504 at 162.475 MHz) which is Weather Channel 4.

Set Time and Date (so you know when an alert happened).

Set the SAME County Code to Sonoma County (006097).



Fire Safe Occidental

A Connected Community Is A Safer Community

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