



**STATE OF WISCONSIN \ DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
WISCONSIN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

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**INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE MEMO
04-02-03**

DATE: April 28, 2003

TO: County Emergency Management Directors
Wisconsin County Sheriffs

FROM: Edward J. Gleason
Administrator

SUBJECT: 2003 NOAA WEATHER RADIO AWARENESS DAY

May 15, 2003 has been designated as NOAA Weather Radio Awareness Day in the State of Wisconsin. The National Weather Service (NWS) and Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) sponsor this day to promote the use and importance of NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) in your home, office, school, or any type of public building. NWR is one of the most effective and inexpensive weather warning devices that is available. Since 1996, the State of Wisconsin and the NWS have provided funds for the construction of several new NWR transmitters. Currently over 90% of Wisconsin's population has NWR coverage.

While the primary purpose of NWR is to provide meteorological information and severe weather alerts, a Memorandum of Agreement between the NWS and the State of Wisconsin now exists for the use of NWR for transmission of non-weather related emergencies under certain conditions. Please take the time to review the attached agreement and coordinate the use of this opportunity with your respective NWS office if you wish to pursue this option.

This NOAA Weather Radio Awareness Day is a perfect opportunity to educate the public on this public safety device. The additional uses beyond the traditional weather warnings are even more reason to have and promote this equipment. Additional information on the NOAA Weather Radio can be found on any National Weather Service Office homepage. Any questions on NOAA Weather Radio Awareness Day should be channeled through your Regional Director.

ATTACHMENTS

DISTRIBUTION:
MG Albert H. Wilkening, TAG
Governor's Legal Counsel
National Weather Service Offices
Barb Fonkert, MN DEM
WEM Staff

*Previous Information and Guidance Memo: 04-01-03, EMPG Distribution Formula