

**Doyle, Dan**

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**From:** Smith, Erin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 20, 2011 3:46 PM  
**To:** AfterIreneCT  
**Subject:** FW: emergency preparedness

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**From:** reidchris@earthlink.net [mailto:reidchris@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2011 6:58 PM  
**To:** Senator Leone  
**Subject:** emergency preparedness

**First:** Christine  
**Last:** Reid  
**Street:** 42 Carroll ST  
**Town:** Stamford  
**State:** Connecticut  
**Zip:** 06907-1707  
**Phone:** NO DATA ENTERED  
**Email:** reidchris@earthlink.net  
**Subject:** emergency preparedness  
**message:** Senator Leone,

NOAA weather radio network and its function or nonfunction can impact state and local outcomes and efforts.

Every elected official was saying, "get a weather radio" so I stood in line at Radio Shack to get one. What a joke.

The official websites said, "check the directions sent by the manufacturer for more information." It was a crank radio (in more senses than one) -- but the directions did not tell how much to crank it to make it work and how long it would work, or whether to keep cranking and when.

The alternative was to use batteries so I just put in regular batteries. There are 7 weather channels. I had no idea which one to listen to (what was close to me) so I tried all 7. (They were only labeled 1 thru 7.) All I got was white noise. This was during a "tornado" alert on Saturday night of the Irene storm (warning or watch? conditions favored it but I did not hear one was sighted) and I was trying to get more info but still had my power.

Because the manufacturer and elected official communications or website info did not say anything about what station to try or provide a list of possibilities, then I checked the NOAA website.

It said, among other things, the following:

1. The transmitters may not function properly in very wet weather! THINK ABOUT THIS - are we relying on this for communicating flooding information or heavy rainfall events?

2. The transmitters broadcast area may have dead zones --a NOAA map of Fairfield County shows dead zones, but no geographic landmarks, roads, or towns are marked so you just have to guess if you are in one.

3. The transmitters are placed on private towers, and NOAA has no control over the quality of installation or adjustments made to it. The NOAA site specifically says that the transmitter may be adjusted to favor one direction at the expense of another direction. In other words, I have to ask if the public just bought a private tower owner the power to make sure certain neighborhoods receive signal? This may be penny wise and pound foolish. (I know this is a federal issue, but if state is relying on this system, it might be tooo to find out: Is there any penalty to tower owner for using this transmitter in a way not intended and agreed?)

4. There is no way (on some radios, like the one I bought) to tell which station corresponds to which number on the radio dial -- but a fair guess is to look at the NOAA website at a list of frequencies that number 7, and figure that the frequencies ascend starting from 1 till the highest frequency, 7 is reached. By looking at the Connecticut and NY list, one can guess where one might find each station. If state and municipal authorities could advise citizens which transmitters are best received in which areas and what number to use to tune them in, that would help figure out which station to tune in, perhaps.

Frankly, the urging to get the weather radio without additional information gave me a false sense of security that I had this backup system in place, whereas there is a lot more to using this radio than meets the eye.

I still do not know if I live in a dead zone, had a bad radio model, hit a period when nothing was being broadcast (is the broadcast continuous or in spurts? What will the public hear during a nonbroadcast time?)

I believe that either this system should not be recommended, or more information should be developed and provided, or it should be recommended within the context of other sources of info if the weather transmitters do not work.

Mindlessly recommending this one size fits all solution without understanding who/where among constituents and locations may not get a signal, or what information may not be provided, gives us a sense that we have handled something on the checklist that is not in fact fully examined, understood, and communicated.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. I took back the radio and got my money back.

I would welcome local and state officials expanding on the information available to citizens about receiving weather alerts.

Videos, public service announcements, and recorded instructions (for those who cannot process written word easily) would all help.

Thank you,

Chris Reid  
Springdale

**NoReply:** NO DATA ENTERED

**Reply:** yes