

With support from the Nevada County Amateur Radio Club, communities throughout Nevada County are setting up local *Neighborhood Radio Watch* programs to help our neighbors stay safer during emergencies and disasters.

Working with community leaders and first responders, we help our residents learn how to use simple, affordable radios to communicate when the power is off and phone and Internet service is disabled.

Getting started with your *Neighborhood Radio Watch* program is “Easy as 1-2-3!”

Neighborhood Radio Watch* programs are not a replacement for cell phones, 911, or regular Emergency Services. They offer a backup solution that helps us stay in touch *when all else fails.

The Nevada County *Neighborhood Radio Watch*

Media Contact:

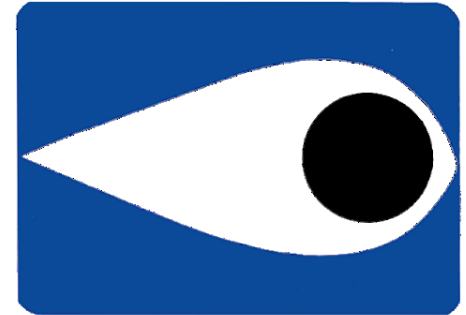
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Nevada County
Amateur Radio Emergency Service
NCARES
<https://nevadacountyares.org/>



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Neighborhood Radio Watch Easy as 1-2-3!



WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER™

Sponsored by:

The Nevada County
Amateur Radio
Emergency Service



1. Get Your License

It's EASY to join our *Neighborhood Radio Watch* program:

First, you'll need to get a **General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS)** radio license. Unlike an Amateur Radio license, no test is required. There is a \$70 license fee, and the license is good for 10 years. One license covers your entire family; spouse, children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, parents, and grandparents, whether living with you or not.

The process is simple. Go to <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do> to register for your **FCC Registration Number (FRN)**. You will be prompted to register and verify a username account prior to obtaining your **FRN**.

Next, go to <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp> and log in with your FRN and password.

On the left side of the page, click the ***Apply for a New License*** link.

Choose "**ZA – General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS)**" from the radio service drop-down list.

Click ***Continue*** to navigate through the rest of the application, If you're unsure how to answer some of the questions, use the default values.

Complete Step-by-Step instructions can be found here: <https://nevadacountyares.org/neighborhood-radio-watch#brochures>

2. Get Your Radio

Now that you have your license, your next step is to decide how many and what type(s) of radios you'll need.

Start out with a hand-held, battery-operated radio, known as a "Handy Talkie," and then add radios for family members and vehicles.

There are three types of radios we support:

1. Battery-operated, 5-watt, handheld, two-way radios @ \$70~\$90 each. (additional spare, rechargeable batteries are ~\$30 each).
2. More-powerful, 40-watt, two-way Mobile Radios for auto or home @ \$120~\$150 each.
3. Police and Fire Radio Scanners (one-way, or "listen only") @ \$180~\$200 each (new) Mobile radios can be installed in vehicles, or in your home or office as a "Base-Station" radio (recommended for weak-signal areas and for use by "Net Control" stations).

Mobile radios will need an outside-mounted antenna @ \$50~\$75 each. Mobile radios used as a Base Station will also need an AC-to-DC power supply @ \$80~\$90 each. (all prices are approximate and subject to change, depending on market conditions).

3. Get on the Air

Radio "*Safety Nets*" are an essential part of a successful *Neighborhood Radio Watch* program.

Safety Nets are a regular, weekly, on-the-air, radio Meeting Place where residents can "check in" to learn and practice basic radio communications skills *before an emergency or disaster strikes*.

A weekly *Radio Safety Net* helps you to

- a) check your radio to ensure it's charged up and working,
- b) learn how to use your radio before you might really need it,
- c) ensure the radio communications system itself is working,
- d) get to know your neighbors, and
- e) let others know that you're OK.