

With support from R3EMCOMM and the Community Emergency Radio Association, communities throughout Culpeper, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock County, Virginia are setting up local Neighborhood Radio Watch programs to help friends and neighbors stay safer and stay in touch during emergencies and disasters.

Working with community leaders and first responders, R3EMCOMM can help you and your family learn how to use simple, affordable radios to communicate when the electricity is off, and phone and Internet service are disabled.

Getting started with a Neighborhood Radio Watch program is "As Easy as 1 - 2 - 3!" and we are here to help!

Please note that Neighborhood Radio Watch programs are not a replacement for cell phones, 911, or traditional emergency services. They offer a backup solution that helps us stay in touch "when all else fails."

Neighborhood Radio Watch

R3EMCOMM

is a not-for-profit organization composed of volunteer amateur radio operators who serve to support their local communities.



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We Look Out For Each Other

Neighborhood Radio Watch

As Easy as 1 - 2 - 3!



Sponsored by Rappahannock-Rapidan
Regional Emergency Communications
(r3emcomm.org)
in partnership with the
Community Emergency Radio Association
(cerafund.org)

Neighborhood Radio Watch

1. Get Your License

It's EASY to join a Neighborhood Radio Watch program... If you are going to use the Family Radio Service (FRS), just get on the air! If you are going to use the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), you'll need a GMRS radio license. Unlike an Amateur Radio license, no test is required. There is a \$35 license fee, and the license is good for 10 years.

Just one, single license covers your entire family; spouse, children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, parents, and grandparents, whether they live 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)" at the bottom of 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.

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 "Handi Talkie," and then add radios for family members and vehicles.

R3EMCOMM supports two types of GMRS radios:

1. Battery-operated, 5-watt, handheld, two-way radios (\$40-\$90 each with additional spare, rechargeable batteries at \$30 each)
2. A more powerful, 40-watt, two-way mobile radio for auto or home (\$120-\$150 each).

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 with or without access to a repeater).

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 availability and market conditions.

Visit [R3EMCOMM.ORG](https://www.r3emcomm.org) for additional information!

3. Get on The Air

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

Safety Nets are regular, weekly, on-the-air, radio meeting places where community members can "check in" to learn and practice basic radio communication skills before an emergency or disaster strikes.

A weekly Radio Safety Net helps you (a) check your radio to ensure it is charged and working, (b) learn how to use your radio before you might really need it, (c) ensure that the radio communication "system" itself is working, (d) get to know your neighbors, and (e) let others know that you're doing OK.

The bottom line is that your Neighborhood Radio Watch group belongs to you. Whether you meet weekly "on the air" or every other week or once a month is up to you. You can pick the day or days of the week as well as the time. The important thing is to practice, practice, practice. "When all else fails" and you can't find your radio, or don't know how it works, it really isn't much good to you and your loved ones.

When All Else Fails...
It's Up to You!