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**...New NOAA Weather Radio Transmitter Frequency Improves Severe Weather Safety...**

Residents of extreme southwest Missouri can feel safer when severe weather threatens, thanks to fine tuning of a NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards transmitter in Cassville, Mo. National Weather Service technicians tested a frequency change this summer that will mean better reception in a four-county area.

“Terrain and other natural features can change over time and we started getting some complaints about frequency interference and unclear broadcasts from our NOAA Weather Radio transmitter in Cassville,” said Bill Davis, Meteorologist in Charge at the Springfield, Mo., National Weather Service office. “We knew we had to take care of the problem to keep our loyal listeners safe from severe weather. We were pleased to find out changing the frequencies of the Cassville transmitter and one in Grove, Ok, will take care of our challenge.”

Davis said the change would be official October 15, 2012 for the 1,000-watt Cassville transmitter. On that day, broadcasts for Barry, Lawrence, McDonald and Newton counties in the southwest corner of Missouri will change from the current 162.525 MHz to 162.500 MHz. As an added bonus, the frequency transfer also included clearing up similar problems on a transmitter in Grove, Ok.

Warning Coordination Meteorologist Steve Runnels worked closely with maintenance specialists at the Kansas City regional office to determine the best available frequency and make the changes to ensure strong, clear broadcasts.

“We’ve completed our tests for both transmitters and they passed with flying colors. I’m sure everyone within the 40-mile radius will immediately recognize and appreciate the improvements,” Runnels said.

The transmitter (WNG608) is located on a tower owned by KAMO Electric Cooperative, Inc., in Cassville.

NOAA’s National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. NOAA’s National Weather Service operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy. Working with partners, NOAA’s National Weather Service is building a Weather-Ready Nation to support community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather. Visit us on Facebook, Twitter and other social media.

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