

Maybe Yours.

For more information regarding weather radios or the weather radio donation program for licensed day care facilities and assisted living centers, please contact your nearest American Red Cross chapter:

Black Hills Area Chapter
1221 N. Maple St
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 342-4010
redcross@rapidnet.com

Lake-Kingsbury Chapter
PO Box 179
Madison, SD 57042
(605) 256-0550
lakearc@hcpd.com

Sioux Empire Chapter
808 West Ave N
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
(605) 336-2448
des@midco.net

Brown County Chapter
PO Box 848
Aberdeen, SD 57402
(605) 225-9664
brocoarc@mdex.net

Beadle-Jerauld Chapter
59 3rd St. SE
Huron, SD 57350
(605) 352-4361
huronarc@basec.net

Codington-Grant Chapter
16 1st Avenue SE
Watertown, SD 57201
(605) 886-3420
arcjj123@daknet.com

Davison-Hanson Chapter
Box 535
Mitchell, SD 57301
(605) 996-3087
redcross@mitchell.net

Oahe Chapter
PO Box 941
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 945-0400
oahearc@sd.cybernex.net

Yankton County Chapter
PO Box 357
Yankton, SD 57078
(605) 665-7142
stoddard@byelectric.com

Brookings County Chapter
PO Box 122
Brookings, SD 57006
(605) 692-6772
redcross@brookings.net

*U.S. Senator Tim Johnson
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510*

1-800-537-0025
e-mail: tim@johnson.senate.gov
<http://johnson.senate.gov>

Cover photo: Tornado approaching Spencer, South Dakota on May 30, 1998

A Moment's Notice...



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...Is Worth A Lifetime.

*The Weather Radio
Early Warning System
Saves Lives.*

On the evening of May 30, 1998, a tornado swept through the town of Spencer, South Dakota. The Spencer tornado was one of several tornadoes which tore through McCook and Hanson counties that evening, bringing winds in excess of 240 mph. The damage path was 30 miles long and nearly a mile wide at times.

Six people died. Hundreds more were injured.

Those who survived will never forget that terrible night. The deafening wind. The debris. Their efforts to get loved ones to safety. Their efforts to alert family members and neighbors, many of whom never knew the tornado was coming until it was too late to seek shelter. The difference a moment's notice might have made...

Storm sirens never sounded in Spencer that dreadful night. A community power outage disabled the town's warning system and other means of emergency communication (televisions, radios) just before the tornado struck. Like a majority of South Dakota communities, Spencer's weather warning system did not have a battery back-up.

In the weeks and months following the Spencer tornado, Senator Tim Johnson began look-

ing for ways to help other communities find that crucial extra moment to seek shelter that Spencer never had — the moment that saves lives.

Senator Johnson forged a partnership between the National Weather Service and South Dakota Public Broadcasting to fit public broadcasting towers with weather radio transmitters. He went to the floor of the U.S. Senate and secured funding for those transmitters, as well as additional towers to carry the alert broadcasts throughout South Dakota.

When all of the transmitters are in place, more than 95% of South Dakotans will be covered by the warning system. Homes and businesses with working weather radios in these areas will be alerted when a damaging storm approaches their area, even if it comes in the middle of the night while they sleep, or during a power outage.

Tornadoes have been spotted in nearly every corner of South Dakota at one time or another, and no community is immune to their wrath. Many South Dakotans live in rural areas not served by storm warning sirens. Even those who live in cities served by a siren system should realize that that most South Dakota communities do not have a battery back-up for their warning systems; as Spencer learned so tragically, those sirens may not sound if the storm causes a power outage.

A weather radio receiver can provide the advance warning you and your loved ones need to find shelter. When activated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), weather radios sound an alert, letting you know that a dangerous weather system is approaching, giving you as much time as possible to find shelter.

Weather radios come in a variety of sizes and styles, with prices typically

ranging from \$25 to \$100. They are available at electronics and hardware stores throughout South Dakota. When severe weather strikes, they turn on automatically, broadcasting an alert or sounding a siren. They work even when you are sleeping, and because they run on batteries or have a battery back-up, they continue to work even if there is a power outage.

All South Dakotans should consider purchasing a weather radio for their home or business. It can give you more than peace of mind. It can give you that extra moment to find shelter — the moment that saves lives.

Licensed day care facilities and assisted living centers may be eligible to receive a free weather radio receiver through a generous donation from the Fannie Mae Foundation and the American Red Cross. For more information about the weather radio donation program, contact any of the Red Cross offices listed on the back of this brochure.

Helpful Links:

Tornado Safety: The National Weather Service's Sioux Falls office provides tornado safety info at: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/fsd/tornado.htm>

The Spencer Tornado: A complete account of the tornado, disaster and recovery efforts are available from South Dakota Public Broadcasting at: <http://www.sdpb.org/spencer/>

For more information regarding this or any other federal initiative, visit U.S. Senator Tim Johnson's website at: <http://johnson.senate.gov>.

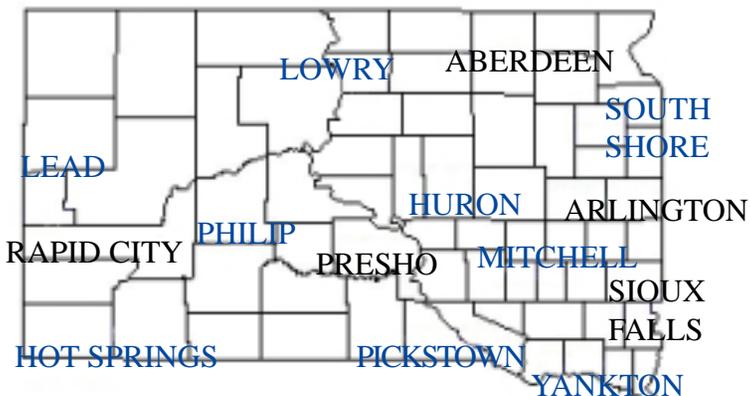
You can also call Senator Johnson's office toll-free from anywhere in South Dakota at:

1-800-537-0025



This brochure was provided as a public service by U.S. Senator Tim Johnson.

WEATHER RADIO TOWERS IN SOUTH DAKOTA



EXISTING TOWERS IN BLACK **NEW TOWERS IN BLUE**