

**First Alert<sup>®</sup>**

**Model WX-268 - User's Manual  
Public Alert™ Radio**



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## ***Contents in this package***

- One Public Alert™ Radio – WX-268
- One AC Power Adapter  
120VAC: 9VAC
- One User's Manual (this document)
- One Wall Mounting Kit  
1 bracket, 2 screws, 2 wall anchors
- One Quick Start Guide

## IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDS

When using electrical appliances, the following basic safety precautions should always be followed.



**CAUTION!**



The Manufacturer does not represent this unit to be waterproof. To reduce the risk of fire, electrical shock, or damage to the unit, do not expose this unit to rain or moisture or immerse in water.



**CAUTION!**



This product has the capability to operate with five (5) 1.5V AA batteries (either rechargeable Nicad, NiMH or non-rechargeable alkaline), Please dispose of batteries properly or recycle at the end of the life of the battery. Do not incinerate or compost batteries, as they can explode at high temperatures. Contact your local authority for information concerning reclamation and disposal of rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries. Cadmium is a chemical identified by Proposition 65 in the State of California to cause cancer.



**CAUTION!**



This product has a built-in circuit for charging five (5) 1.5V AA rechargeable NiCad or NiMH batteries. When regular alkaline batteries are used as a backup power source, set the selection switch in the battery compartment to the “Alkaline” position to switch off the internal charger.

## CHARGING ALKALINE BATTERIES CAN CAUSE LEAKAGE OR A FIRE



**DANGER!**



To reduce the risk of electric shock, do not disassemble this product. Take it to a manufacturer authorized service personnel when service or repair work is required. Opening or removing cover voids warranty. This unit does not contain any parts that can be repaired by the user.



## **CAUTION!**

You should understand the danger of lightning striking an external antenna and make appropriate measures to protect yourself from injury and fire hazard resulted from a lightning strike on an external antenna.

- When an external antenna is used, make sure that there is sufficient lightning protection on the antenna and its cable feed. Make sure all the ground connections are sound and fit. Do not get close to the unit when it is operating during a thunderstorm.
- Lower, retract or remove the telescopic antenna when using an external antenna.
- Contact your external antenna supplier for more information on lightning protection and grounding issues on your antenna. You could also get information from lightning protection device suppliers.

## **Care and Maintenance**

- The output jacks for the Remote Alert provide a floating relay contact output to external warning devices. The contact will close when an alert broadcast has been received. Do not exceed the maximum voltage or current rating of the contacts - 1 Amp (A) @ 30V DC.
- Wipe unit with a damp cloth occasionally to clean. Do not use harsh chemicals, cleaning solvents or strong detergents.
- Do not allow anything to rest on the power cord.
- Do not locate this product where persons walking on it could damage the cord. Keep cord away from heated surfaces.
- To disconnect, grip the AC adapter and pull it from the wall outlet. Never disconnect by pulling on the cord.
- This product is designed to operate using the AC adapter supplied in a household application or 12V DC for portable use.
- LCD screens can change color in extreme temperatures. If the unit is exposed to temperatures below -20°C (-5°F) or above +60°C (+140°F), the display may temporarily cease to function properly, or could result in permanent damage.

# FCC NOTICE TO USERS

The system may cause interference to a TV or radio even when it is operating properly. To determine whether the system is causing the interference, turn it off. If the interference goes away, the system is causing the interference. This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation.

This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is needed.
- Contact your dealer for help.

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

1. This device may not cause harmful interference.
2. This device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

**WARNING:** changes or modifications to this unit not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment

## IMPORTANT!

Clear voice reception is important, but does not guarantee that an emergency alert will trigger your unit's alert siren. To test actual reception and alert response, your unit must receive a test or emergency alert signal broadcast. The National Weather Service (NWS) broadcasts a test alert every week typically on Wednesday between 11AM and 12PM (noon). The radio will warn you if it has not received an alert within 10 days. To find out the specific test schedule in your area, contact your local National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) or National Weather Service (NWS) office - 1-898-697-7263. These offices are usually listed in the telephone book under "US Government" or visit the NOAA website at

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>

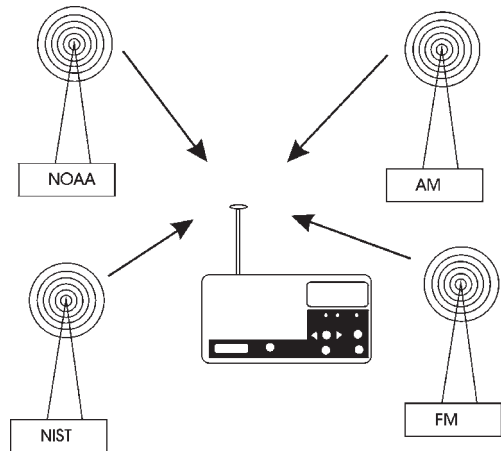
**REMEMBER – FOR YOUR SYSTEM TO BE EFFECTIVE, YOU MUST PLACE IT WHERE IT CAN RECEIVE AN EMERGENCY ALERT SIGNAL AND WHERE YOU CAN HEAR ITS ALERT SIREN OR SEE ITS FLASHING LIGHTS.**

## INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your purchase of the First Alert® brand Public Alert™ Radio, Model WX-268. This product complies with the exacting standards for CEA-2009 Public Alert™ devices, and will provide reliability, long life and outstanding performance. The WX-268 receives digitally encoded civil and weather emergency alert messages transmitted from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Weather Radio (NWR) broadcast towers. NOAA has more than 900 towers in the 50 states and near adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the U.S. Pacific Territories. The WX-268 Public Alert™ Radio receives all 7 NOAA weather channels and uses Specific Area Message Encoding (S.A.M.E.) technology to identify specific areas, like a county or portion of a state.

The WX-268 also receives alerts broadcast by the Emergency Alert System (EAS) over commercial AM and FM stations.

In addition, the WX-268 receives the signal from the atomic clock at the National Institute of Standards and Technologies. The NIST clock automatically sets the correct time and date and adjusts for daylight savings time.



## How it works

The WX-268 displays NOAA and EAS text messages on the LCD screen. When an alert is received, the alert siren sounds and the radio automatically switches to the voice broadcast. Messages are identified by one of three color-coded LED lights as follows: “Advisory” (yellow), “Watch” (orange) or “Warning” (red). External handicapped accessory devices are also triggered, if connected.

To simplify programming, the WX-268 has a built-in database of over 3000 state and county locations. You can select up to 20 locations for your radio to respond to. **Note: You must select the correct weather channel to receive warnings from NOAA for the state/county locations that you have programmed.**

There are advanced optional settings which you can use, such as Event Blocking, Alerting Options and Select Source to customize the response of your radio. For up-to-date information on NOAA and weather frequencies used in your area, check the NOAA web site at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr>. Call 1-888-NWR-SAME (1-888-697-7263) for further information.

## ***The main features of the WX-268 Public Alert Radio include:***

### **NOAA/EAS Alert Function**

Your Public Alert™ Radio will automatically sound an alert tone siren and flash the corresponding LED color indicator when it receives a weather or civil emergency broadcast from NOAA (Weather Band) or EAS (AM/FM Bands).

### **Specific Area Message Encoding (S.A.M.E.)**

Allows you to store up to 20 different location codes into memory. Each code identifies a specific geographic area, typically a county as defined by NOAA and EAS. Setting the S.A.M.E. location helps reduce unnecessary alerts.

### **Alphanumeric Liquid Crystal Display (LCD)**

The LCD displays the NOAA weather band, AM and FM channels, time, programming information and alert/status description. The LCD tilts to provide optimal visibility. When powered from the AC adapter or 12V DC source, the display is backlit continuously for low light situations.

### **Non-Volatile Memory**

Radio programming is stored in non-volatile memory and will not lose settings, even when AC and battery power is removed.

### **Remote Alert**

This feature can be used to control external handicapped accessible devices such as strobe lights, pillow vibration modules and external sirens.

### **Alert Audio Output**

Allows connection of the siren and audio signal to a Public Address system, amplifier and un-amplified external speaker. The volume control knob controls the audio output.

### **External Antenna (F connector)**

Allows connection to an optional external antenna (not included) to improve reception in fringe or low reception areas such as a shelter.

### **Rear Power Jack**

Connects to 9V AC wall adapter or 12VDC car accessory plug adapter.

### **Battery Backup**

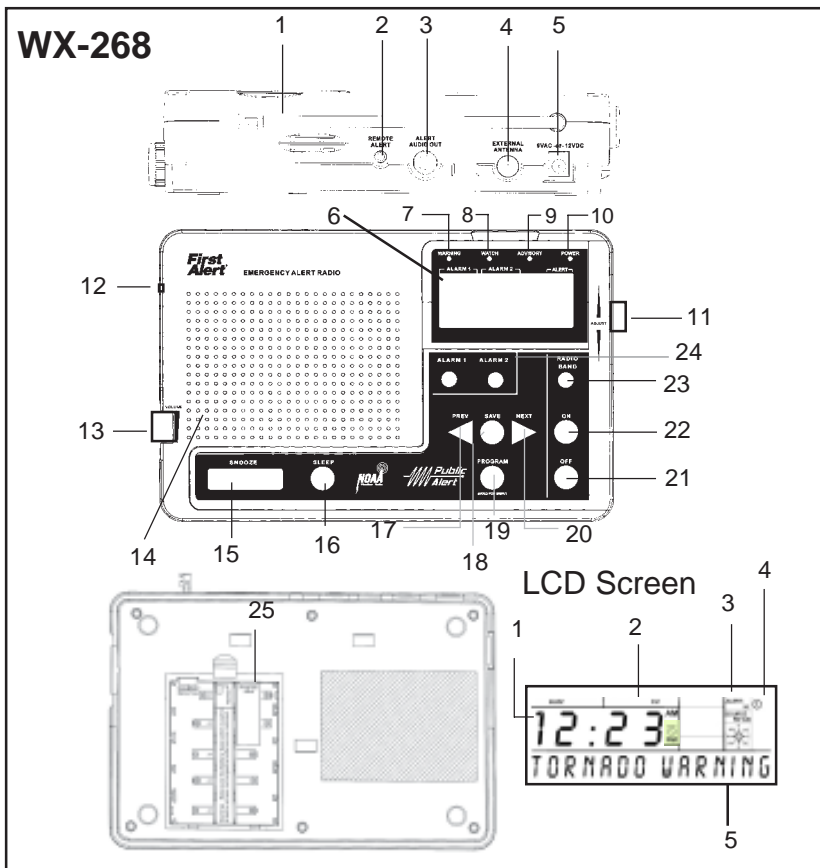
The unit will operate on five AA rechargeable Ni-Cad, NiMH or standard alkaline batteries. A switch located in the battery compartment is provided to select the type of battery used. Alkaline batteries will provide up to 24 hrs of operation while rechargeable NiCad and NiMH batteries will provide up to 12 hours. See battery installation section (page 10) for more information.

### **NIST Auto-set Atomic Clock**

This radio monitors a time signal broadcast by the atomic clock at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Upon receiving the signal it will automatically set the clock to the correct time. Reception varies according to time of day and location. For more information visit the NIST website at

<http://www.boulder.nist.gov/timefreq/stations/wwwb.htm>

# LOCATION OF CONTROLS



- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Integrated Telescopic Antenna       | 17. PREV Button (Denoted as <) |
| 2. Remote Alert Jack (3.5 mm)          | 18. SAVE Button                |
| 3. Alert Audio Out Jack (6.2 mm)       | 19. PROGRAM Button             |
| 4. External Antenna Jack (F Connector) | 20. NEXT Button (Denoted as >) |
| 5. DC Power Jack                       | 21. Radio OFF Button           |
| 6. Liquid Crystal Display (LCD)        | 22. Radio ON Button            |
| 7. Warning Indicator (red) LED         | 23. Radio Band button          |
| 8. Watch Indicator (orange) LED        | 24. Alarm 1 & Alarm 2 buttons  |
| 9. Advisory Indicator (yellow) LED     | 25. Battery type switch        |
| 10. Power Indicator (green) LED        |                                |
| 11. Function Knob                      |                                |
| 12. ALERT Volume/OFF Switch            |                                |
| 13. Volume Knob                        |                                |
| 14. Speaker                            |                                |
| 15. Snooze button                      |                                |
| 16. Sleep button                       |                                |

## LCD Screen

1. Time of Day with AM/PM indicator
2. Alarm Settings - OFF, BUZZ, AM, FM, WB
3. Alert Siren Setting
4. Number of Stored Alerts
5. Scrolling Text

## Description of controls and functions

1. **Integrated Telescopic Antenna** – Fully extend the antenna and orient it for best reception.
2. **Remote Alert (3.5 mm Jack)** – Provides contact closure to activate external devices.
3. **Alert Audio Out (6.2 mm Jack)** – Mono jack allows connection to a Public Address system.
4. **External Antenna (F Connector)** – F connector allows you to connect to optional external antenna (not included) for weather band only.
5. **DC Power Jack** – Connect AC Adapter or 12V DC from car cigarette adapter (not included).
6. **LCD Display** – Displays time and alert messages. Also used to display different options when programming.
- 7 -9 . **Indicator Lights - “Warning” (Red), “Watch” (Orange), “Advisory ” (Yellow)**
10. **Power Indicator (Green)** – Steady light indicates the unit has external power. Blinking indicates battery power.
11. **Function (Scroll) Knob** – Allows you to scroll “Up” and “Down” through option selections when the radio is in programming mode. Also use to tune AM and FM band stations.
12. **Alert Volume Hi/Low/Off Switch:** Setting the switch to the OFF position will mute the alert siren. The radio will still receive alerts but will not sound the siren.
13. **Volume Control** – Controls listening volume and alert audio output volume level. This control will not affect the volume level of the alert siren.
14. **Speaker**
15. **Snooze Button** - Silences wake-up alarm for a period of 9 minutes.
16. **Sleep Button** - A timer that turns off the radio after a set period of time. Set in 15 minute increments up to 2 hours.
17. **PREV(ious) Button** – Use to scroll back through previous menu options while programming.
18. **SAVE Button** – Allows you to confirm the menu selections made while programming and stores the selections into the unit's internal memory.
19. **PROGRAM Button** – Press and hold for 3 seconds to put the radio into programming mode. Press again to exit menu without saving changes to setup.
20. **NEXT Button** – Use to scroll forward through menu options while programming.
21. **Radio OFF Button** – Press to stop the alert siren and revert to standby mode. Also press to mute voice broadcast.
22. **Radio ON Button** – Allows you to un-mute the speaker and listen to the voice broadcast.
23. **Radio BAND Button** - Selects radio band.
24. **Alarm 1 and Alarm 2 buttons** - Use to set wake up alarm
25. **Battery Selection Switch** – Select “Alkaline” or “NiCad” according to back-up battery type. Set switch to the right for alkaline and to the left for rechargeable. See battery installation instructions on page 10 for diagram.

## Battery Installation

The WX-268 uses 5 AA batteries for back-up power. It can run on non-rechargeable alkaline, or rechargeable Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cad) or Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) batteries. Use the slide switch located inside the battery compartment (Fig. 1) to select the battery type. To select “Alkaline” when alkaline batteries are installed, push the switch to the right. To select “Ni-Cad” when using rechargeable batteries, push the switch to the left. **(See Fig. 1).** It is recommended that rechargeable batteries be replaced every three years.

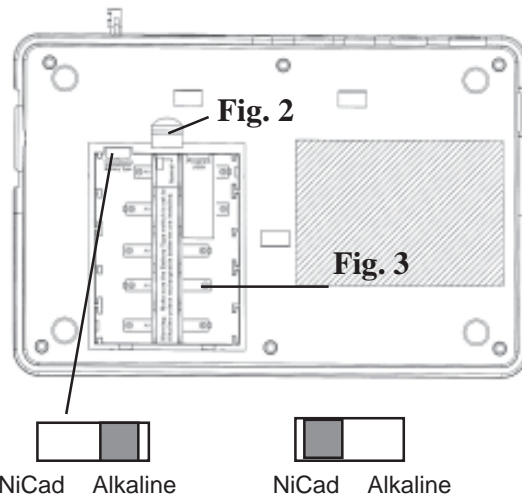
### DO NOT CHARGE ALKALINE BATTERIES!

**Always set the battery select switch to “Alkaline” before installing alkaline batteries. Using the “NiCad” setting with alkaline batteries may cause batteries to leak and present a a fire hazard.**

#### To install or replace the batteries:

- Turn the unit upside down. Locate the battery compartment door tab **(Fig. 2)**, press down on the door tab and lift the cover up to open
- Insert the batteries into the battery compartment. Be sure to follow the polarity markings. **(Fig. 3)**
- Replace the cover.

**NOTES:** Rechargeable batteries must be charged for at least 24 hours before they are ready. Rechargeable batteries provide approximately 8-15 hours of operation time. Non-rechargeable alkaline batteries will provide up to 24 hours of operation time. To maintain maximum backup time, do not disconnect AC power supply from the unit while in use. Remove the batteries when the unit is not used for a prolonged period of time.



**Fig. 1**

# Chapter 1 - Basic Operation

## Setting up your Public Alert™ radio

### 1. Choosing a place for your radio

Your WX-268 is designed for desktop or wall mount installation. Place the unit where it can receive an emergency alert signal broadcast and where you can hear its alert tone or see the message indicator lights. The best location to install the WX-268 is:

- Clear of any obstructions.
  - Near windows or large openings.
  - Near an AC power outlet
  - Near to where the user(s) would normally stay, such as a bedroom, living room or office.
- Adjust LCD flip door for best viewing angle.
  - Keep the receiver away from interference sources e.g. motors, computers, TV or microwave ovens.

### The WX-268 has 4 separate antennas.

**Weather Band** - 21" Telescopic antenna. Fully extend antenna. Adjust by moving.

**FM** - The FM antenna is in the power cord. Straighten for best reception. To receive FM signal make sure power cord is connected to the radio.

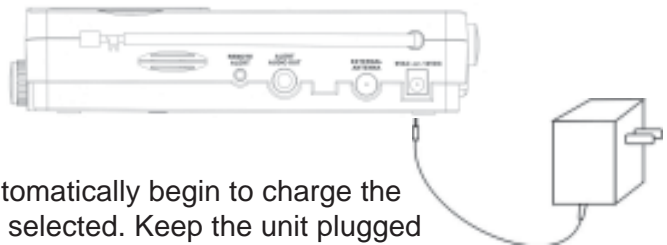
**AM and Auto-set Clock** - These antennas are internal ferrite bar antennas. If your radio is being used on a desk or table top, try rotating it 90 degrees to improve reception. If your radio is mounted to the wall, try mounting it on a wall perpendicular to the one it is currently on (e.g. if it is on a north-south wall try an east-west wall).

### 2. Connecting the Power

#### USING A STANDARD 120V AC OUTLET

1. Plug the AC adapter cord into the 9V AC input jack on the back of the unit.
2. Plug the adapter into the wall outlet.

**Note:** The internal battery charger will automatically begin to charge the batteries if the "Rechargeable" setting is selected. Keep the unit plugged in at all times. The unit will be ready to use in the event of a power failure.



#### VEHICLE USE (12V DC)

Use an optional 12V DC car adapter (not included). Plug the adapter cord into the 12V DC input jack on the back of the unit. Plug the other end into your vehicle's cigarette lighter or accessory outlet.

### 3. Set-up and Language Selection

When the radio is powered up: the LCD screen will illuminate, the four lights located above it will light up for 3 seconds and it will beep 3 times.

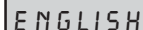
**Note:** The radio will prompt you to select a language the first time you program it. You will not have to do so when programming the radio at other times.

1. When powered up, the radio will prompt you to HOLD PROGRAM TO SETUP RADIO in English then in Spanish. Press and hold the PROGRAM key for 3 seconds.



HOLD PROGRAM TO SETUP RADIO

2. The LCD screen will display ENGLISH. Turn the FUNCTION KNOB clockwise to toggle between English or Spanish language. Select your language choice and press the NEXT (>) key to save your selection. After setting the language selection, proceed to Step 2 in the Clock/Calendar menu.



ENGLISH

**Note:** To reset the language selection, disconnect power from the unit, including batteries. Hold the PROGRAM button and connect the wall adapter. Repeat steps 1 and 2 above.

### 4. Setting the Clock and Calendar

The WX-268 is equipped to receive the signal from the U.S. atomic clock located at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Colorado. When powered up, the radio automatically searches for the time signal and sets itself to the correct time. However, you must set the clock, select the correct time zone, set the daylight savings mode and the 12/24 hour clock system manually the first time. Follow the prompts below:

1. When powering up the radio, you will be prompted to HOLD PROGRAM TO SETUP RADIO. Press and hold the PROGRAM key for 3 seconds.

2. **SET DATE/TIME** menu will be displayed on the LCD screen. Press the NEXT (>) key.



SET DATE/TIME

3. **SET YEAR** will be displayed on the screen. Turn the FUNCTION knob clockwise to select the current year. Press the NEXT (>) key.



SET YEAR - 2000

4. **SET MONTH** will be displayed on the screen. Turn the FUNCTION knob clockwise to select the desired month. Press the NEXT (>) key.



SET MONTH - JAN

5. **SET DAY** will be displayed on the screen. Turn the FUNCTION knob clockwise to select the correct day of the month. Press the NEXT (>) key.



SET DAY - 01

6. **TIME ZONE** will be displayed on the screen. Turn the FUNCTION knob clockwise to set the Time Zone as



TIME ZONE - 0500

7. **DAY SAVING** will be displayed on the screen. Turn the FUNCTION knob clockwise to select either Daylight Savings ON or OFF. **Note:** When set to ON, The NIST clock automatically adjusts for daylight savings time. When set to OFF, it will stay on standard time. Press the NEXT (>) key.
8. **CLOCK** will be displayed on the screen. Turn the FUNCTION knob clockwise to select between the 12-hour or 24-hour clock systems. Press the NEXT (>) key.
9. **TURN KNOB TO SET TIME** will be displayed on the screen. Turn the FUNCTION knob to scroll to the current time.
10. Press the SAVE key to save all of the settings for your clock/calendar and return to normal operation.

DAY SAVING - ON

CLOCK - 12 HOUR

TURN KNOB TO SET TIME

THEN PRESS SAVE

## 5. Selecting the Weather Band Channel

***To receive alerts, you must first select the correct weather channel.***

NOAA broadcasts on seven channels, in 25KHz increments, between the frequencies of 162.400MHz and 162.550MHz. To identify the appropriate channel for your area, visit the NOAA web site at:

***<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/indexnw.htm>***

The table on the NOAA website includes the correct weather band channel for your area, the SAME code and the location of the broadcast tower. Look for the state in which you live and then search the list for your county. Use the channel listed for your county when programming the radio.

If you cannot access the NOAA website,  
call NOAA at **1-888-NWR-SAME (1-888-697-7263)**.

You can also select a weather channel by listening to each channel and choosing the one with the best reception. In most cases this will be the appropriate channel, however, sometimes broadcast areas overlap. The best reception may not originate from the tower broadcasting to your area.

## Selecting the WB channel for your listening area:

1. Press the radio **ON** button to hear the voice broadcast. Adjust the volume knob as needed.
2. Press and hold the PROGRAM key for 3 seconds.
3. **SET DATE/TIME** is displayed on the screen.
4. Turn the FUNCTION knob clockwise until **SET WB CHANNEL** is displayed on the screen.
5. Press the NEXT (>) key to enter the WB Channel menu.
6. Turn the FUNCTION knob clockwise to select the correct channel for your area, as identified by NOAA. Adjust the telescopic antenna to ensure clear reception.
7. Press the **SAVE** key to save the channel and return to normal operation.

SET DATE/TIME

SET WB CHANNEL

WB CHANNEL 1

**Set Alert Volume** - Make sure the alert siren volume switch, located on the left hand side of the radio, is set to the volume level (Low/Hi) to your preference. **Note: If the switch is in the OFF position, the radio will not sound an alert tone.**

Your radio is now programmed to respond to all alerts broadcast by the NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) network. To set your S.A.M.E. location and select the source for EAS alerts, proceed with the programming instructions that follow.

## Chapter 2 - Recommended Programming

### 1. Setting the Specific Area Message Encoding (S.A.M.E.) location

Both NOAA and EAS use S.A.M.E. technology to identify locations. The WX-268 features a built-in database of over 3,000 county locations in the United States identified by NOAA. Your Public Alert™ radio is programmed at the factory to receive all the alerts issued in a given county. This may include alerts that do not affect you. Selecting your S.A.M.E. location can reduce unnecessary alerts.

To select your S.A.M.E. location, simply select your state, county and county subdivision at the menu prompts as described below.

#### To set your SAME location:

1. Press and hold the **PROG** key until **SET DATE/TIME** is displayed on the screen.
2. Turn the **FUNCTION** knob clockwise to select the **SETUP LOCATIONS** menu. Press the NEXT (>) key.

SET DATE/TIME

SETUP LOCATIONS

3. **SET LOCATION 01** will be displayed on the screen.  
Press the NEXT (>) key.
  4. **SELECT STATE** will be displayed on the screen. Turn the FUNCTION knob clockwise until you locate the desired state. Press the NEXT(>) key.
  5. **SELECT COUNTY** will be displayed on the screen. Turn the FUNCTION knob until you locate the desired county. Press the NEXT (>) key.
  6. **SELECT SUBDIVISION** will be displayed on the screen. Turn the FUNCTION knob to scroll through the subdivisions within a county. For ex. 1- NorthEast
- Note: Setting the subdivision to 0 - ANY will receive all alerts broadcast in the entire county.**
7. Press the NEXT (>) key when you have selected the subdivision of your county .
  8. Press the SAVE key to save your SAME location and return to normal operation.

SETUP LOCATION 01

SELECT STATE

SELECT COUNTY

SELECT SUBDIVISION

PRESS SAVE

**NOTE:** Because broadcast areas overlap you may want to set more than one S.A.M.E. location. To set more than one S.A.M.E. location, you must complete the above steps for each location desired. Repeat steps 1 and 2 above. Upon entering the SETUP LOCATIONS menu in step 3, turn the FUNCTION knob to select an alternate location, press the NEXT (>) key and proceed as prompted through step 8.

## TEST SIGNAL FROM NOAA:

NOAA sends out test signals weekly and monthly to verify that your Public Alert radio is working properly. Your radio is programmed at the factory to block the alert siren for the test signals. When the test signal is received:

1. The LCD screen will display the text message  
*“The National Weather Service has issued a required weekly or monthly test for your county until #####”*
2. If not blocked, the radio will beep for 15 sec. The siren will not sound.
3. Weekly and monthly tests are stored in the Alert Queue.

**Note:** If the WX-268 has not received a test signal or an alert for a period of 10 days, it will automatically alert you by displaying **10 DAY ALERT SENTRY** on the LCD screen.

## 2. Selecting the Source for Emergency Alert System (EAS) Alerts

In 1994, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) replaced the Emergency Broadcast System with EAS. EAS provides not only the President, but national, state and local authorities with the ability to give emergency information to the general public via broadcast stations, cable and wireless cable systems. Broadcasters and cable operators can send warning messages almost immediately to their audiences. **To identify the EAS stations in your area visit the EAS web site at <http://www.fcc.gov/eb/eas/plans.html>**

Emergency messages broadcast by EAS are received on commercial AM and FM band stations. The WX-268 responds to EAS alerts by continuously monitoring the EAS station of your choice on either the AM or FM band. To program the radio to automatically respond to EAS alerts, you must choose an alerting source.

### To Select an EAS source:

1. Press and hold the PROGRAM button for 3 seconds.
2. **SET TIME/DATE** will appear on the screen.
3. Turn the FUNCTION knob clockwise until the **SELECT SOURCE** menu appears. Press the NEXT (>) button.
4. **WB** will appear on the display.
5. Turn the FUNCTION knob to select your alert sources
6. Press SAVE to save your setting.

SET DATE/TIME

SELECT SOURCE

WB

**Note: Selecting WB as your source activates both AM and FM stations for casual listening, but de-activates the radio's automatic response to EAS alerts.**

Source	Alerts to	Casual listening
<b>WB</b>	NOAA only	WB, AM & FM
<b>WB/AM</b>	NOAA & EAS AM	WB & AM only (will not receive FM)
<b>WB/FM</b>	NOAA & EAS FM	WB and FM only (will not receive AM)

To tune your radio to the AM or FM station of your choice see *Setting the AM/FM Radio Channel* on page 17.

After programming your WX-268, you are ready to use it . Place the radio where it gets the best reception. To listen to the weather channel press the Radio ON button. To Turn off the weather channel press the Radio OFF button. To turn the siren or voice off when an alert is received, press the OFF button.

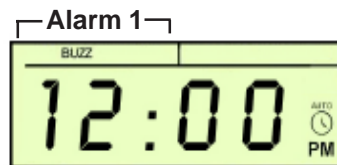
## Setting the AM /FM channel

1. To select an AM or FM station, press the Radio On button.
2. Press the BAND button to select the desired radio band. The selected band and station setting appears on the LCD screen. **Note: Only the AM or FM band selected as the EAS alert source will be available.**
3. Use the FUNCTION knob to select the desired frequency. Rotate the knob clockwise to increase the frequency. Rotate the knob counterclockwise to decrease the frequency.
4. Press the RADIO OFF button to turn the radio off.

## Set the Alarm Clock, Sleep and Snooze timers

The WX-268 has two wakeup alarms as well as a sleep timer and a snooze button to provide maximum control over your alarm clock. To set the either Alarm 1 or Alarm 2 :

1. Press and hold the **Alarm** button of your choice.
2. Turn the FUNCTION knob to set the alarm time.
3. Continue to hold the Alarm button.
4. Press the NEXT (➤) button to cycle through the five options; OFF, Buzz (Buzzer), AM, FM and WB (Weather Band). The selection appears in the top left section of the LCD screen under the appropriate Alarm heading as shown at right. If you set the alarm type to OFF, the alarm will not sound.



**Audio Level of Buzzer** - The alarm volume will begin low and then gradually increase over the first 15 seconds.

**Alarm Duration** – The unit will alarm for 59 minutes unless stopped by the user by pressing SNOOZE or OFF.

**Using the Snooze Button:** - Press the SNOOZE button to silence the wake-up alarm for 9 minutes

### Using the Sleep Button:

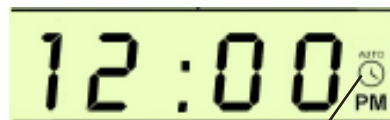
The SLEEP button turns the radio on for a set period of time. Repeatedly pressing the SLEEP button sets the sleep timer in 15 minute increments, starting at a minimum of 15 minutes to a maximum of 2 hours. The radio will turn off after the sleep timer expires. To de-activate the sleep timer once it has begun, press either the SNOOZE or OFF buttons.

## Auto-set Atomic (NIST) Clock

The WX-268 continuously monitors the broadcast of the atomic clock signal on WWVB from the NIST laboratories in Colorado. NIST continuously broadcasts the time signal on WWVB (60 KHz) which can be received anywhere in the continental United States where long range AM radio reception is possible.

Due to the nature of the earth's atmosphere, your location and seasonal weather conditions, daytime reception can be limited. The radio will search for the NIST signal every night when reception is optimal. Upon receiving the signal the clock will automatically be adjusted to the correct time. In addition, the clock will automatically make adjustments for daylight savings time unless you select OFF in the DAY SAVING time menu when programming the radio. See page 12, SETTING THE CLOCK/CALENDAR.

An icon indicating the status of the NIST clock appears directly to the right of the time display on the LCD screen, as shown at right. The status of the NIST clock is indicated by the icon as follows:



NIST icon

**Steady** - NIST signal received and time set in past 24 hrs.

**Blinking** - Receiving NIST signal and resetting time.

**No icon** - The unit has not received the NIST signal or set the clock in the past 24 hrs.

**Note:** The NIST antenna is located inside the radio. If your radio is being used on a desk or table top, try rotating it 90 degrees to improve reception. If your is mounted to the wall, try mounting it on a wall perpendicular to the one it is currently on (e.g. if it is on a north-south wall try an east-west wall).

# Chapter 3 - Advanced Programming Options

## 1. Selecting Between Alerting Options

The WX-268 offers four different alerting options for you to select from. Each choice will make the WX-268 respond differently when an alert is received. Your radio is set at the factory to Option 1 - Voice/Message. The four alert options are:

1. **VOICE/MESSAGE:** Sound the alert siren for 5 seconds then switch to the voice broadcast for the duration of the message. (About 60 sec. to 3 minutes.)
2. **SIREN/MESSAGE:** Sound the alert siren for the duration of the message. (About 60 sec. to 3 minutes)
3. **VOICE/EVENT:** Sound the alert siren for 15 seconds and then switch to the voice broadcast for the duration of the alert. (15 min to 6 hrs.)
4. **SIREN/EVENT:** Sound the alert siren for the duration of the alert. (15 min to 6 hrs.)

### To select an alert mode:

1. Press and hold the PROG key until SET DATE/TIME is displayed on the screen.
2. Turn the FUNCTION knob until ALERT OPTIONS is displayed on the screen. Press the NEXT (>) key .
3. Turn the FUNCTION KNOB to select the alert type.
4. Press the SAVE key to save your selection.



SET DATE/TIME



ALERT OPTIONS

## 2. Event Blocking

To reduce unwanted alerts, such as weekly tests, the WX-268 features the ability to block specific alerts. The WX-268 is programmed at the factory with some events blocked. See the alert list on page 23 for more information. **To set event blocking options :**

1. Press and hold the PROG key for 3 seconds. **SET DATE/TIME** will be displayed on the screen.
2. Turn the FUNCTION knob until SETUP BLOCKING is displayed on the screen. Press the NEXT ( “>” ) key.
3. A 3-letter code followed by either the words “BLOCKED” or “NOT BLOCKED”. will appear.



SET DATE/TIME



SETUP BLOCKING

**For example: ADR-BLOCKED**

The full text name of the message will scroll across the screen.

**For example: ...Administrative Message..**



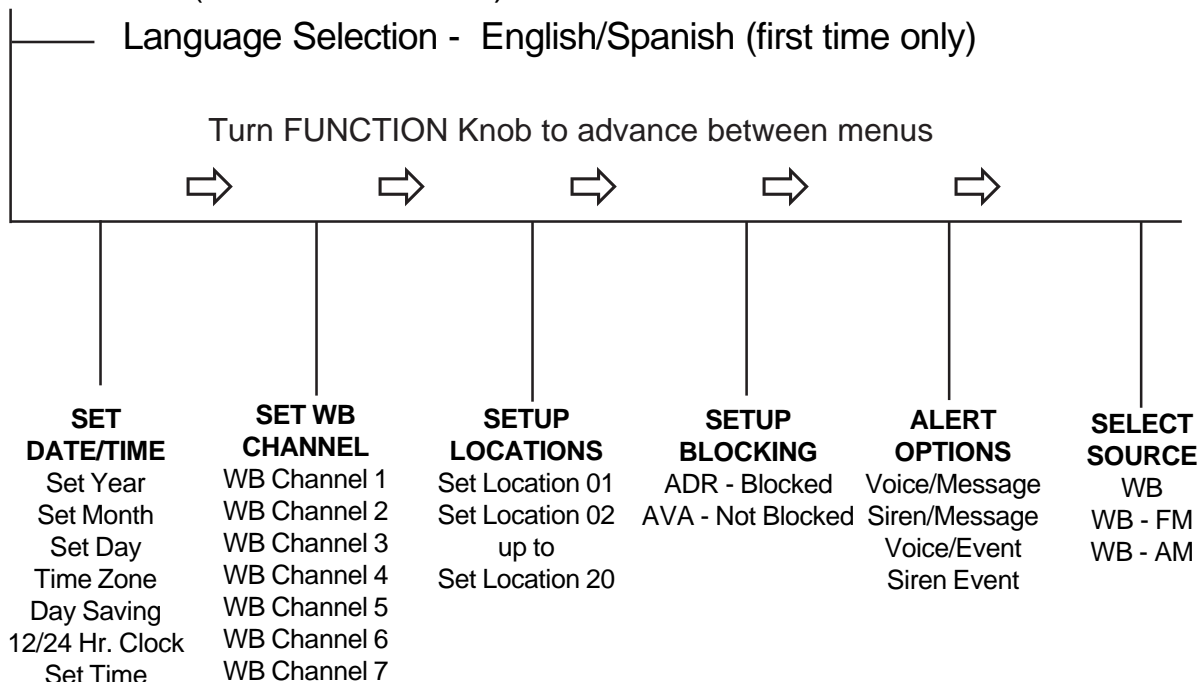
ADR - BLOCKED

4. Turn the FUNCTION knob to select the event of your choice. Press the NEXT ( “>” ) key.
5. Use the FUNCTION knob to select either BLOCKED and NOT BLOCKED.
6. Press the SAVE button to save your blocking options. Repeat steps 4 - 6 above to block other alerts. Press the PROGRAM key to return to the main menu.

**Note: Blocking an event disarms the siren and remote output only. The LED light indicators and text message will still appear when the event is received.**

# WX-268 Menu Tree

PROGRAM (hold for 3 seconds)



Press NEXT (>) to advance within menus.

Press PREV (<) to retreat within menus.

Use FUNCTION Knob to make selections as needed.

Press PROGRAM at any time to exit without saving

Press SAVE to save settings

## Appendix A - Notes and Tips

**Setting Daylight Savings Time-** In order for the WX-268 to automatically adjust for daylight savings time, you must select the ON option in the Daylight Savings Time menu. See *Setting the Clock and Calendar* on pages 11 and 12 to do so.

**Self Test :** The WX-268 will automatically notify you if it has not received a test message in the previous 10 days, by lighting all four LED indicators and displaying “10 DAY ALERT SENTRY” on the LCD screen.

### **CAUTION!**

Storm front activity can continue even though the alert’s effective time has expired. The end of an alert does not mean that the related emergency is over.

**Time reset:** Upon complete power outage - no AC and batteries - the WX-268 will lose its time and date setting. Upon regaining power, the NIST clock will search for the NIST signal and reset the clock and calendar when receiving it. Remember, the WX-268 searches for the NIST signal at night when reception is optimal. You can also reset the time and date manually by pressing the program button for 3 sec. The SET TIME/DATE menu will appear. To reset the clock upon restoring power, follow the Clock/Calendar setting instructions on pages 11-12.

**Antennas:** For best Weather Band reception, lift up the built-in telescopic antenna and fully extend it vertically. The Weather Band channel that gives you the best reception may not be the one that broadcasts weather information for your own location or county. If you can’t get good reception either move the radio or use an external antenna

For best FM reception straighten or re-position the power cord.

### **To Review Alert Messages**

The WX-268 will store up to 10 currently active alert messages in its memory. Alerts are removed automatically when the time for the event expires. If all stored alerts are active, it will delete the oldest active alert. The number of active alerts is displayed on the LCD screen in the upper right corner while the time and date are displayed. Press the NEXT (>) or PREV (<) button to play the alert denoted by the circled number.

## Handicapped Accessories - Appendix B

The WX-268 Public Alert radio is equipped to connect a variety of special needs accessory devices including strobe lights, pillow vibration modules and remote sirens.

Once connected, these devices will automatically be activated when the radio receives an advisory, watch or warning for the duration of the radio siren or until you press the Radio OFF button.

To connect a special needs accessory, plug the device into the Remote Alert jack on the rear panel of the radio shown in Fig. 1. This jack requires a 3.5 mm connector.

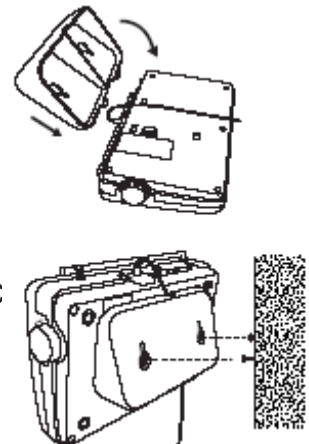
**Note:** If an alert is blocked, the accessory will not be activated. The Alert Volume switch does not affect devices connected to the remote alert output.

Fig. 1



## Wall Mount Installation

1. Remove the wall mount bracket from the package. Hold the bracket at the mounting location with the narrow edge at the top. Use it as a template to mark the positions for the screw holes on the wall or other mounting surfaces.
2. Drill two screw holes and fix the screws onto the wall, using the drywall anchors if necessary. Leave a space of about 3mm (1/8") between the head of the screw and the wall.
3. Put the radio and the wall mount bracket together with the AC adapter plug installed. Make sure all the clips are properly set and the radio is secured.
4. Hang the radio with the wall mount onto the two screws on the wall, make sure the installation is secure. Connect the AC adapter to a power outlet to activate the radio.



**Note: Be sure to install batteries before wall mounting**

**Alert Description Table:** The table below lists the alerts broadcast by NOAA and EAS. At the factory, your radio has been programmed with some alerts Blocked (B) as noted below. In addition, some NOAA alerts are Unblockable (UB) as noted below. To block additional events, see the Event Blocking instructions on page 19.

Code	(Blocking status)	Message	Code	(Blocking status)	Message	Code	(Blocking status)	Message
ADR	(B)	Administrative message	FLA		Flood Watch	SMW		Special Marine Warning
AVA		Avalanche Watch	FLS		Flood Advisory	SPS		Special Weather Advisory
AWW		Avalanche Warning	FLW		Flood Warning	SPW	(UB)	Shelter In-Place Warning
BHW	(UB)	Biological Hazard Warning	FRW		Fire Warning	SVA		Severe Thunderstorm Watch
BWW		Boil Water Warning	FSW		Flash Freeze Warning	SVR		Severe Thunderstorm Warning
BZW		Blizzard Warning	FZW		Freeze Warning	SVS		Severe Weather Advisory
CAE		Child Abduction Emergency	HMW	(UB)	Hazardous Mat. Warning	TOA		Tornado Watch
CDW	(UB)	Civil Danger Warning	HLS		Hurricane Advisory	TOE		911 Telephone Outage
CEM	(UB)	Civil Emergency Message	HUA		Hurricane Watch	TOR	(UB)	Tornado Warning
CFA		Coastal Flood Watch	HUW	(UB)	Hurricane Warning	TRA		Tropical Storm Watch
CFW		Coastal Flood Warning	HWA		High Wind Watch	TRW	(UB)	Tropical Storm Warning
CHW	(UB)	Chemical Hazard Warning	HWW		High Wind Warning	TSA	(UB)	Tsunami Watch
CWW	(UB)	Contaminated Water Warning	IBW		Iceberg Warning	TSW	(UB)	Tsunami Warning
DEW	(UB)	Contagious Disease Warning	IFW	(UB)	Industrial Fire Warning	TXB	(B)	Transmitter Backup On
DBA		Dam Watch	LAE	(UB)	Local Area Emergency	TXF	(B)	Transmitter Carrier On
DBW	(UB)	Dam Break Warning	LEW	(UB)	Law Enforcement Warning	TXO	(B)	Transmitter Carrier Off
DMO	(B)	Practice/Demo	LSW	(UB)	Land Slide Warning	TXP	(B)	Transmitter Primary On
DSW		Dust Storm Warning	NAT	(B)	National Audible Test	VOW	(UB)	Volcano Warning
EAN	(UB)	Emergency Action Notification	NIC	(B)	National Information Center	WFW		Wild Fire Watch
EAT	(UB)	Emergency Action Termination	NMN	(B)	Network Notification Message	WFA	(UB)	Wild Fire Warning
EQW	(UB)	Earthquake Warning	NPT	(B)	National Periodic Test	WSA		Winter Storm Watch
EVI	(UB)	Immediate Evacuation	NST	(B)	National Silent Test	WSW		Winter Storm Warning
EVA		Evacuation Watch	NUW	(UB)	Nuclear Plant Warning	??A		Unrecognized Watch
FCW	(UB)	Food Contamination Warning	POS		Power Outage Advisory	??E		Unrecognized Advisory
FFA		Flash Flood Watch	RHW	(UB)	Radiological Haz. Warning	??S		Unrecognized Emergency
FFS		Flash Flood Advisory	RMT	(B)	Required Monthly Test	??W	(UB)	Unrecognized Warning
FFW		Flash Flood Warning	RWT	(B)	Required Weekly Test			

## Trouble Shooting

Problem	Possible Cause and Solution
POWER light does not come on	AC power may not be connected. Make sure AC adaptor is properly plugged into the radio and the wall outlet.
POWER light is blinking	AC power has been removed. Unit is running on backup battery power. Check AC adapter connections to restore power.
Text is in the wrong language	Language selection is incorrect. To reset language selection, follow instructions on page 12
Siren does not sound	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alert Volume switch may be in OFF position. Set switch to Lo or Hi position.</li> <li>2. Alert Audio Output jack may be in use. Disconnect external device from Alert Audio Output jack.</li> <li>3. Alert is blocked. To Unblock alerts see Event Blocking instructions on page 19.</li> </ol>
All 4 LED indicator lights are on and “10 Day Alert Sentry” is displayed on the LCD screen.	Your radio has not received an alert for 10 days or more. Weather channel or S.A.M.E. location programming may be incorrect. Re-program weather channel and S.A.M.E. according to instructions on pages 14-15. Also make sure radio is getting clear reception.
No sound from the radio’s speaker	Check to make sure the Volume Knob is not at the lowest level. Check the Alert Audio output. Connecting a device to the Alert Audio output, mutes the radio’s speaker.
There is only static when I press the radio ON button.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. May have programmed incorrect weather channel. To reset weather channel, follow instructions on page 13.</li> <li>2. Poor reception. Adjust antennas, move radio location or use external antenna.</li> </ol>

## Trouble Shooting

### Problem

### Possible cause and Solution

My clock doesn't auto-set.

If the radio is being powered by batteries only, check them and replace if necessary.

Poor reception of the NIST signal. The NIST antenna is located inside the radio. If your radio is being used on a desk or table top, try rotating it 90 degrees. If your is mounted to the wall, try mounting it on a wall perpendicular to the one it is currently on (e.g. if it is on a north-south wall try an east-west wall).

Other devices maybe causing interference. Locate the clock at least 3 to 6 feet away from any computer monitors, which can cause interference (some monitors have a scan frequency at or near the WWVB carrier frequency of 60 kHz).

If nothing else works, take the clock outdoors at night and power it down (remove the batteries and unplug it), then power it up again to force it to look for the WWVB signal. If it works outdoors but not indoors, you probably have a local interference problem inside your house or building.

My clock is off by one or more hours

Remember, minutes and seconds are the same in all time zones, only hours are different. If your clock is off by one or more hours, it probably has to do with a time zone setting.

If you live in an area that does not observe Daylight Saving Time (Arizona, Hawaii, parts of Indiana), make sure that Daylight Saving is set to OFF.

Make sure you have properly set your time zone as described in Setting the Clock Calendar on page 12.

# Trouble Shooting

Problem	Possible Cause and Solution
<p>We switched to Daylight Saving Time, and my clock didn't change</p>	<p>Make sure that Daylight Saving is set to ON. See pages 12-13 for instructions</p> <p>This is probably due to a reception problem. Your radio hasn't received the signal recently, so it didn't know about the time change. Check the Auto-Clock indicator on the display that tells you if the signal is being received properly. If you are not sure if the signal is being received, try powering down the clock (unplug it or remove the batteries), then turn it on again to see if it can synchronize. If it doesn't, see the tips above for improving your reception.</p>
<p>My clock switched to Daylight Saving Time, but we don't observe DST where I live</p>	<p>If you live in an area that does not observe Daylight Saving Time (Arizona, Hawaii, parts of Indiana), make sure that Daylight Saving is set to OFF. See pages 12-13 for instructions</p>

## WX-268 Specifications

### WEATHER BAND CHANNELS

Channel 1.....	162.400 MHz
Channel 2.....	162.425 MHz
Channel 3.....	162.450 MHz
Channel 4.....	162.475 MHz
Channel 5.....	162.500 MHz
Channel 6.....	162.525 MHz
Channel 7.....	162.550 MHz

### Emergency Alert System Radio -

AM 530-1710 KHz / FM 88-108 MHz

**Auto-set Atomic Clock - WWVB 60 KHz**

### ACCESSORIES

- AC Power Adapter (Included)
- Mounting Bracket (Included)
- Car Power Adapter (Optional – Not Included)
- External Antenna (Not included)
- Handicapped Accessories (not included)

### Power Requirements:

9V AC or 12V DC 200mA (120V: 9V - AC power adapter)

5 AA Alkaline, Ni-Cad or NiMH Batteries (not included)

**WB Antenna:** 21" Telescopic Rod Antenna

**External WB Antenna** (not included): 50 Ohms

**External WB Antenna Connector:** F-type jack

**FM Antenna:** In AC power cord

**AM Antenna:** - Internal Ferrite bar

**Atomic (NIST) clock:** - internal Ferrite bar

**Remote Alert Connector:** 3.5mm mono audio jack

**Remote Alert Output Rating:** 1.0A@30VDC

**Audio Output Power:** 200mW (max)

**Size:** 5-1/2"(L) X 8-1/4" (W) X 1-3/4" (D)

**Weight:** 13.5 oz. (without batteries)

## SERVICE PROCEDURE

You may be asked to send your unit in for service. It will be necessary to furnish the following in order to have the product serviced and returned.

1. For Warranty Repair, include some form of proof-of-purchase.
2. You must include the Public Alert System Receiver unit and power adapter.
3. Enclose a description of the problem with the unit. Include a typed or clearly printed name, address, and phone number where you can be contacted.
4. Pack the unit securely to prevent damage in transit. If possible, use the original packing material.
5. Ship the unit prepaid and insured by way of a traceable carrier (to avoid loss in transit) such as United Parcel Service (UPS), Roadway Parcel Service (RPS) or First Class Insured

**Mail to:**

**Sima Products Corporation**

**Attn: Customer Service**

**140 Pennsylvania Ave, Bldg #5**

**Oakmont, PA 15139**

The Manufacturer is not responsible for units not received if the package has not been properly insured.

6. If the unit is in warranty, upon receipt of your unit it will either be repaired or exchanged.

Please allow approximately 2 to 4 weeks for your radio to be serviced. If the unit is out of warranty, we will notify you of the repair charge or replacement charge. If you have any questions, please call 800-345-7462 for assistance.

## ***90-Day Limited Warranty***

Sima Products Corp. ("Company") warrants that if the accompanying product proves to be defective to the original purchaser in material or workmanship within 90 days from the original retail purchase, the Company will, at the Company's option, either repair or replace same without charge (but no cash refund will be made).

### **Conditions**

1. You must deliver, mail or ship the product, together with the original bill of sale and this limited warranty statement as proof of warranty coverage to:

**Sima Products Corporation  
Attn: Customer Service  
140 Pennsylvania Ave, Bldg #5  
Oakmont, PA 15139**

2. This warranty is void if any defects are caused by abuse, misuse, negligence or unauthorized repairs.
3. All liability for incidental or consequential damages is specifically excluded. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

### **Limitation of Liability and Remedies**

Sima shall have no liability for any damages due to loss of profits, loss of use or anticipated benefits, or other incidental, consequential, special or punitive damages arising from the use of, or the inability to use, this product, whether arising out of contract, negligence, tort or under any warranty, even if Sima has been advised of the possibility of such damages. Sima's liability for damages in no event shall exceed the amount paid for this product. Sima neither assumes nor authorizes anyone to assume for it or any other liabilities.

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