



Introduction to EMWIN

The Emergency Managers Weather Information Network is a service that allows users to obtain weather forecasts, warnings, and other information directly from the National Weather Service (NWS) in almost real time. EMWIN is intended to be used primarily by emergency managers and public safety officials who need timely all-hazard alerts and weather information to make critical decisions, but may be used by anyone.

EMWIN basically consists of two things:

1. A round-the-clock **data feed** of current weather warnings, watches, images from NESDIS, advisories, forecasts, and other products issued by the National Weather Service.
2. A **suite of methods** to obtain this data feed and display the products on your personal computer.

The methods for obtaining the EMWIN feed are **direct satellite** broadcast, **repeat radio** broadcast, and internet feed. With **direct satellite**, you receive the EMWIN feed directly from one of the satellites broadcasting the signal. With **repeat radio**, you get the feed from a repeat broadcast (usually VHF), which comes from an existing direct satellite receive site. However, with **repeat radio**, you must be within range (usually 10-50 miles) of a repeat broadcast from an existing direct satellite receive site.

To use the direct satellite or repeat radio method, you will need special **hardware** to receive the EMWIN feed. You will also need special **software** for storing, managing, and displaying the products on your computer. Many hardware vendors offer complete 'turnkey' systems that include software. Some of these software programs can access the EMWIN feed directly over the Internet, without buying any radio or satellite hardware. This method is only a few seconds slower than the

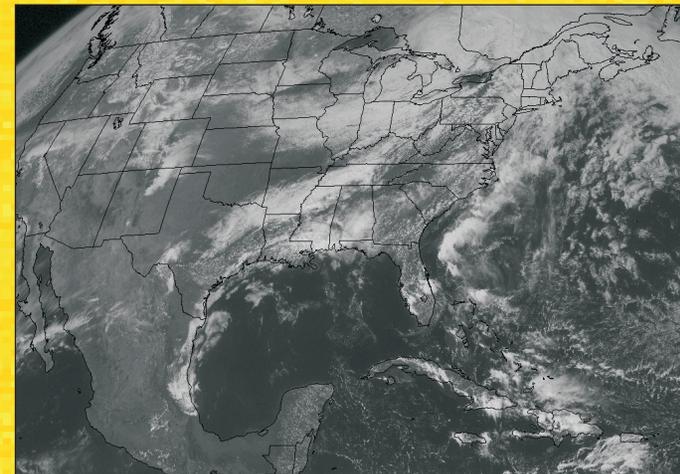
satellite or radio broadcast methods, but relies on the availability of the Internet, which is not always there.

Remember: Once you have paid for the initial hardware and software you need to start using the EMWIN service, there are no additional fees or recurring charges. The NWS forecasts, warnings, and other data you receive from this service are **FREE**, and you may do anything you want with them.

For more information on **repeat radio** or Internet access to EMWIN see <http://weather.gov/emwin/user-intro.htm>.

Satellite Dissemination: Presently, the NWS broadcasts EMWIN on NOAA's GOES East (at 75 degrees West) and GOES West (at 135 degrees West) satellites. Data is uplinked to the satellites from the NOAA Command and Data Acquisition (CDA) Station on Wallops Island, VA. The GOES downlink frequency used for the current 9600 baud EMWIN datastream is 1690.725 MHz.

The EMWIN data stream is also currently uplinked to the Telstar 5 Satellite, located at 97 degrees West. The center frequency of the



EMWIN to help you sleep better

Imagine your worst nightmare: disaster strikes, power's down, communications lost - no phones, no internet. You're on your own, or are you? You have your emergency power, you have your emergency radios, and you have EMWIN for your emergency information.

EMWIN (Emergency Manager's Weather Information Network) is NOAA's satellite based system that provides weather and other emergency information that can be relied upon when all else has failed. With your own low-cost satellite station, you can receive up-to-the-minute weather information and emergency alerts. With EMWIN, you are not dependant on anyone else for your vital information.

As an integral part of its mission, the NWS recognizes the need to provide the emergency management community with access to a set of NWS warnings, watches, forecasts, and other products at no recurring cost. Toward that end, the EMWIN system was developed. In partnership with the NESDIS and other public and private organizations, EMWIN has now evolved into a fully operational and supported NWS service.

And now EMWIN is getting even better. Soon, the next generation of geostationary satellites, EMWIN-N, already in orbit, will be activated.

