



Are You Ready? Receiving Information in an Emergency:

TELEVISIONS

A Fact Sheet for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing



All televisions 13" and larger are required to have the ability to show closed captioning. Televisions smaller than 13" are not required to provide captioning capability, and most do not. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has ruled that In an emergency, broadcasters, cable operators and satellite television services must ensure that the audio portion of the programming is made accessible for individuals who have a hearing loss, by using closed captioning or other methods of visual presentation, such as open captioning, crawls, or scrolls that appear on the screen.

Portable televisions are a useful tool in an emergency, particularly those with adapters that plug into a car's cigarette lighter, should you lose power or need to evacuate. The following is a short list of those we have identified to date.

Please be aware that models currently available may be discontinued at any time and new small televisions may be developed that include captioning capability. Check to be sure the model you purchase has the captioning and the portability you need.

Small Televisions with Captioning Capability

Toshiba MD9DPI

- 9" DVD combination
- Includes a car cigarette lighter adapter
- 17.5 lbs.
- Retail for approximately \$200

The following two televisions are small and captioned, but don't appear to be battery-operated or have the ability to be powered via your car's cigarette lighter. Ask your retailer about what these or other small televisions can offer you:

Sony ICF CD 555 TV

- 7" flat screen with CD player, FM/AM tuner.
- 16 lbs.
- Retail for approximately \$400

RCA E09344 Portable Television

- 9" portable, 20 lbs.
- Retail for approximately \$200

Other Television Options

RCA 20" 27", 32" screen sizes, TruFlat TV with Alert Guard

- Alerts provided via a choice of captioning, chimes, siren, and voice information.
- Receives NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) weather events, such as hurricanes, flash floods or tornadoes.
- State and county civil emergency alerts, such as chemical spills, gas line breaks, train derailments, nuclear power plant emergencies, AMBER Alerts, and local school closings where provided by counties.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) high-level state or federal emergency alerts, such as national attack warnings.
- The television will provide an alert whenever receiving electricity, regardless of where the television signal comes from (broadcast, cable, satellite), how the television is being used (watching programs, playing tapes or video games), or whether it's turned on.
- 20" television retails at approximately \$200

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Non-captioned Portable Televisions

Non-captioned portable televisions can cost as low as \$25, and include the Sony Video Walkman as well as black and white "hurricane" televisions. Some of these portable televisions also include an AM/FM radio. Most are available with headphone jacks that may be compatible with neckloops or other patch cords to hearing aids or cochlear implants. Check in advance to see if you can see and hear enough on these televisions - enough that you can use them during an emergency.

Finding the right television

You can find portable televisions by searching the Internet using a search engine such as Yahoo! or Google. However, we strongly suggest that you visit a retail outlet where you have an opportunity to see the captioning for readability and/or test your ability to hear the sound using a neckloop or a patch cord in the headphone jack before purchasing the television.

What are the requirements for emergency captioning?

- Emergency information that is provided in the audio portion of programming must be provided either using closed captioning or other methods of visual presentation, such as open captioning, crawls, or scrolls that appear on the screen.
- Emergency information provided by means other than closed captioning should not block any closed captioning, and closed captioning should not block any emergency information provided by means other than closed captioning.

For more information, please visit www.fcc.gov/cgb/dro/emergency_access.html.

Information, as adapted, provided by the Federal Communications Commission (www.fcc.gov) and the U.S. Access Board (www.access-board.gov).



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This project was supported by Cooperative Agreement Number 2004-GT-T4-K008 administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Grants and Training. Points of views or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.