PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

What is the best emergency radio for a UK blackout?

Buy a portable radio that receives FM and runs without the mains: a set on ordinary AA batteries, a wind-up radio you can also charge by USB, or ideally one of each. FM is the band on the Be Ready kit list and the one the BBC says it would keep broadcasting on from generator-backed transmitters. DAB is a useful extra. Under £20 is enough; tune it and write

- [ ] Own at least one radio that receives FM and runs without mains
- [ ] Fit batteries, unplug it and listen for ten minutes
- [ ] Charge any wind-up or rechargeable radio by USB every few months
- [ ] Keep a sealed pack of spare cells beside the radio
- [ ] Find your BBC local station and a national BBC station on FM
- [ ] Write both frequencies, plus a fallback, on a card taped to the radio
- [ ] Save the same stations as presets on the radio and in the car
- [ ] Find the room with the best reception, usually near a window
- [ ] Show everyone in the house how to switch on and find the news
- [ ] Check the radio, batteries and card every six months