



PUBLIC NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DA 12-1410
Released: August 28, 2012

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THE FCC'S PUBLIC SAFETY & HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU ANNOUNCES THE ACTIVATION OF THE DISASTER INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM (DIRS) IN RESPONSE TO HURRICANE ISAAC

Washington, DC – The Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) has announced the activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS) in response to Hurricane Isaac in the Alabama counties of Baldwin and Mobile; the Florida counties of Escambia and Santa Rosa; the Louisiana parishes of Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Saint Bernard, Saint Charles, Saint Helena, Saint James, St John the Baptist, Saint Landry, Saint Martin, Saint Mary, Saint Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana; and the Mississippi counties of Adams, Amite, Franklin, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Lincoln, Pearl River, Pike, Walthall and Wilkinson.

PSHSB will closely monitor the storm's progress and may extend DIRS activation to additional counties as needed in the coming days. DIRS is a voluntary, efficient, web-based system that communications providers, including wireless, wireline, broadcast, broadband and Voice over Internet Protocol providers can use to report communications infrastructure status and situational awareness information during times of crisis.¹

The Commission requests that communications providers expeditiously submit and update information through DIRS regarding, *inter alia*, the status of their communications equipment, restoration efforts, power (*i.e.*, whether they are using commercial power, generator

¹ On July 21, 2007, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the DIRS information collection under OMB Control Number 3060-1003. This OMB approval expires on June 30, 2013. On June 8, 2012, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the expansion of DIRS information collection to broadband and Voice over Internet Protocol under OMB Control Number 3060-1003.

or battery), and access to fuel, if they provide service in any areas listed above.² Communications providers can accomplish this by accessing DIRS at <https://www.fcc.gov/nors/disaster/> or under e-filing on the Commission's main webpage or PSHSB webpage. Providers that have not previously done so will be asked to first provide contact information and obtain a User ID when they access DIRS.³

Communications providers that serve areas in any of the counties or parishes listed above and that have already provided contact information in DIRS will be sent an e-mail requesting that they provide the above-referenced status information through DIRS. We encourage all communications providers that have not already logged onto DIRS to input their contact information, do so as soon as possible.

For further information, please contact any of the following personnel from PSHSB's Cybersecurity and Communications Reliability Division:

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² Because the information that communications companies input to DIRS is sensitive, for national security and/or commercial reasons, DIRS filings shall be treated as presumptively confidential upon filing. *See* The FCC's Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau Launches the Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS), *Public Notice*, DA 07-3871, 22 FCC Rcd 16757 (2007). To improve the utility of DIRS and facilitate Federal restoration efforts, the Commission will disseminate DIRS information to other Federal agencies that are authorized participants on the Emergency Support Function-2 (ESF-2) team.

³ The Commission requests that communications providers (wireline carriers, wireless carriers, broadcasters, and cable system operators) that choose to participate in DIRS provide contact information for any and all individuals in each company who would be providing information on the status of communications equipment in the event of a disaster. Contact information includes contact name, company name, phone number, cell phone number, Blackberry/pager number, and e-mail address. This information will be secured by the Commission and protected from public release.