



# PUBLIC NOTICE

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## **PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU ANNOUNCES EXERCISE OF THE DISASTER INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM ON JUNE 10-12, 2024**

The Federal Communications Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (Bureau) will conduct a voluntary Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS) exercise on June 10<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. During times of crisis, such as hurricanes, wildfires, and earthquakes, the FCC may activate DIRS. Communications providers can use DIRS to quickly and efficiently report the operational status of their service and infrastructure to the FCC, as well as to request assistance. This is a voluntary exercise. The exercise will help ensure that communications providers, including broadcast, wireless, satellite, broadband, and wireline providers, can access and file reports in the DIRS system, train new employees to become familiar with the DIRS reporting process, and update DIRS contact information.

On December 4, 2023, the legacy DIRS system was decommissioned in favor of a new platform, accessible directly at <https://dirs.fcc.gov>. The new DIRS system has been modernized to enhance security and network features to better ensure the integrity of the system.

If you were a legacy DIRS user and did not have an existing account in the FCC's Commission Registration System (CORES), you will need to create a CORES account prior to accessing DIRS. If you were a legacy DIRS user with an existing CORES account, you will not need to create a new DIRS account. New DIRS users will first need to register in CORES, and then create new DIRS account. The username and password you established in CORES is also used for DIRS. Detailed information on creating DIRS accounts, as well as using the system, can be found in the user's guide, available at [www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/DIRS-UserGuide-122023.docx](http://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/DIRS-UserGuide-122023.docx).

Providers that have not accessed the new DIRS system or have not participated in DIRS reporting before, are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to sign up and learn how the new system works. You can create an account in DIRS at <https://dirs.fcc.gov>.

The exercise will begin with the Bureau sending a mock activation letter on June 10<sup>th</sup>, to all registered DIRS participants. The activation letter will clearly state that this is only an exercise and not a real DIRS activation. The activation letter will provide a list of pre-selected counties that form the disaster area for this exercise. Providers will be asked to report data on any communications assets (e.g., wireline, wireless, broadband, satellite, and broadcast) it has in the affected area. As this is only an exercise, the Bureau does not expect to receive actual counts of outages. If a provider does not have any communications assets in the affected counties, it can still participate in the exercise by reporting mock data for the pre-selected counties.

We ask that exercise participants provide their initial data sets by 10:00AM EST on June 11<sup>th</sup> with an updated report filed by June 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM EST. The Bureau will send a deactivation letter by 3:00PM EST on June 12<sup>th</sup> letting all participants know that the exercise has been completed.

Providers that would like to participate in this voluntary exercise, should email [michael.caiafa@fcc.gov](mailto:michael.caiafa@fcc.gov) and [john.healy@fcc.gov](mailto:john.healy@fcc.gov) by June 3<sup>rd</sup> with the following information:

1. Name of the provider;
2. Names of all participants from the provider;
3. Email and phone numbers of all participants from the provider; and
4. Specific geographic areas (counties, state) that the provider would like to have included in the disaster area for this exercise (optional).

Please provide this information in an excel format.

There is no response necessary for providers that do not wish to participate in this exercise.

Questions regarding the exercise or DIRS generally should be directed to Michael Caiafa, at [michael.caiafa@fcc.gov](mailto:michael.caiafa@fcc.gov) or (202) 418-1311 or John Healy, at [john.healy@fcc.gov](mailto:john.healy@fcc.gov), or 215-847-8094, both of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau.