



PUBLIC NOTICE

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Federal Communications Commission
45 L St., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU ANNOUNCES EXERCISE OF THE DISASTER INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM ON FEBRUARY 6-8, 2024

The Federal Communications Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (Bureau) will conduct a Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS) exercise on February 6th through February 8th, 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 and its purpose is to 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 DIRS system transitioned to a new platform, accessible directly at <https://dirs.fcc.gov>. The new DIRS system was modernized to enhance security and network features to better ensure the system's integrity and reliability.

DIRS users who have not accessed the new system yet and do not have an existing account in the FCC's Commission Registration System (CORES), will need to create a CORES account prior to accessing DIRS. New DIRS users will first need to register in CORES, and then create a new DIRS account. Legacy DIRS users, with an existing CORES account, will not need to create a new DIRS account. The username and password 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.

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 "exercise" activation letter on February 6th, to all registered DIRS participants. The activation letter will clearly state that this is 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 February 7th with an updated report filed by February 8th at 10:00 AM EST. The Bureau will send a deactivation letter

by 3:00 PM EST on February 8th letting all participants know that the exercise has been completed.

Providers wishing to participate in this voluntary exercise, should email michael.caiafa@fcc.gov and ryan.hedgpeth@fcc.gov 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).

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 or (202) 418-1311 or Ryan Hedgpeth, at ryan.hedgpeth@fcc.gov, or 202-418-7095, both of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Cybersecurity and Communications Reliability Division.