



# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Federal Communications Commission  
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## **THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES THE EXPANSION OF THE DISASTER INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM AND MANDATORY DISASTER RESPONSE INITIATIVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS IMPACTED BY WINTER STORM FERN**

The Federal Communications Commission (Commission) is expanding its disaster data collection to include additional counties in Georgia and Mississippi, as well as counties in Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and West Virginia.

On January 23, 2026, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB), in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), announced the activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS) and the Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative (MDRI) in certain counties in states impacted by Winter Storm Fern.<sup>1</sup> With this Public Notice, PSHSB expands the activation of DIRS and the MDRI in the below-referenced areas at the request of the States of Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, and West Virginia in response to Winter Storm Fern.

### **ADDITIONAL COUNTIES FOR DIRS ACTIVATION INCLUDE:**

**Georgia:** Barrow, Clark, Oconee, Rockdale, and Walton

**Maryland:** Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carolina, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, and Talbot

**Mississippi:** Amite

**New Jersey:** Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Ocean, and Salem

**New York:** Nassau, Richmond, and Suffolk

**Virginia:** City of Galax, City of Hopewell, City of Lynchburg, City of Manassas, City of Manassas Park, City of Martinsville, City of Norton, City of Petersburg, City of Radford, City of Richmond, and City of Williamsburg

**West Virginia:** Boone, Fayette, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, Raleigh, Randolph, Summers, Webster, and Wyoming

DIRS is a web-based system that communications providers, including wireless, wireline, broadcast, cable, and interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers use to report

<sup>1</sup> Public Notice, *The Federal Communications Commission Activates the Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS) and the Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative (MDRI) In Response To Winter Storm Fern*, Public Notice, DA 26-77 (PSHSB Jan. 23, 2026).

communications infrastructure status and situational awareness information during times of crisis.

The Commission requests that communications providers that provide service to any areas listed below expeditiously submit and update information through DIRS regarding, *inter alia*, the status of their communications equipment, restoration efforts, and power (*i.e.*, whether they are using commercial power or back-up power). Communications providers can accomplish this by accessing DIRS at <https://www.dirs.fcc.gov>. Providers that have not previously done so will be asked to first provide contact information and obtain a User ID when they access DIRS. There is a link on the login page that will allow them to obtain the User ID and password. If a user does not remember their password, they should use the forgotten password link on the login page. If any user has any problems accessing DIRS, please contact any of the numbers listed below.

In DIRS, this activation has the following name: WINTER STORM FERN. DIRS reports are due by **9:00 a.m. EST on Sunday, January 25, 2026, and each day thereafter by 9:00 a.m. EST until**

**DIRS is deactivated.** Cable communications providers, wireless service providers, wireline communications providers, and interconnected VoIP providers are not required to make submissions in the Network Outage Reporting System (NORS) pertaining to any incidents that arise during the DIRS activation that are timely reported in DIRS.<sup>2</sup> To promote a comprehensive and effective disaster response, PSHSB encourages other communications providers to voluntarily report in DIRS using forms applicable to their infrastructure.

#### **MDRI EXPANDED TO INCLUDE COUNTIES IN GEORGIA, MARYLAND, MISSISSIPPI, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, AND WEST VIRGINIA**

As a result of PSHSB's expansion of the DIRS activation area, the MDRI has also been expanded to include the below-referenced areas in response to Winter Storm Fern.

#### **ADDITIONAL COUNTIES FOR MDRI ACTIVATION INCLUDE:**

**Georgia:** Barrow, Clark, Oconee, Rockdale, and Walton

**Maryland:** Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carolina, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, and Talbot

**Mississippi:** Amite

**New Jersey:** Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Ocean, and Salem

**New York:** Nassau, Richmond, and Suffolk

**Virginia:** City of Galax, City of Hopewell, City of Lynchburg, City of Manassas, City of Manassas Park, City of Martinsville, City of Norton, City of Petersburg, City of Radford, City of Richmond, and City of Williamsburg

**West Virginia:** Boone, Fayette, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, Raleigh, Randolph, Summers, Webster, and Wyoming

Upon the release of this Public Notice, all facilities-based mobile wireless providers operating in such areas are required to (1) provide for reasonable roaming under disaster arrangements when

<sup>2</sup> See 47 CFR § 4.18(b).

technically feasible; (2) activate mutual aid arrangements with other facilities-based mobile wireless providers; (3) take reasonable measures to enhance municipal preparedness and restoration; (4) take reasonable measures to increase consumer readiness and preparation; and (5) take reasonable measures to improve public awareness and stakeholder communications on service and restoration status.<sup>3</sup>

Facilities-based mobile wireless providers that serve the above-referenced areas and that have provided contact information in DIRS will be individually notified that the MDRI has been activated in their area.

PSHSB will announce when the MDRI has been deactivated by subsequent Public Notice. Providers should familiarize themselves with the Commission's MDRI requirements.<sup>4</sup> Details on the Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative can be found on the FCC website at <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless-network-resiliency-during-disasters>.

#### **DIRS AND MDRI REMAIN ACTIVATED IN:**

**Georgia:** Banks, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Coweta, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Columbia, Dade, Dawson, Dekalb, Douglas, Elbert, Fayette, Fannin, Floyd, Forsyth, Franklin, Fulton, Gilmer, Glascock, Gordon, Greene, Gwinnett, Habersham, Haralson, Hart, Heard, Henry, Jefferson, Lamar, Lincoln, Lumpkin, Madison, McDuffie, Meriwether, Monroe, Murray, Oglethorpe, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Polk, Rabun, Spalding, Towns, Troup, Union, Walker, Warren, White, Whitfield, and Wilkes

**Kentucky:** Adair, Allen, Anderson, Barren, Bell, Boyle, Breathitt, Breckinridge, Bullitt, Butler, Caldwell, Calloway, Casey, Christian, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Edmonson, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Floyd, Fulton, Garrard, Graves, Grayson, Green, Hardin, Harlan, Hart, Hickman, Hopkins, Jackson, Jefferson, Jessamine, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Larue, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Logan, Lyon, Madison, Magoffin, Marshall, Martin, McCracken, McCreary, Menifee, Mercer, Metcalfe, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Muhlenberg, Nelson, Ohio, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Shelby, Simpson, Taylor, Todd, Trigg, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Whitley, Wolfe, and Woodford

**Mississippi:** Adams, Alcorn, Attala, Benton, Bolivar, Calhoun, Carroll, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Claiborne, Clarke, Clay, Coahoma, Copiah, Covington, DeSoto, Franklin, Grenada, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Itawamba, Issaquena, Jasper, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Kemper, Lafayette, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Leake, Lee, Leflore, Lincoln, Lowndes, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Monroe, Montgomery, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Panola, Pike, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Quitman, Rankin, Scott, Sharkey, Simpson, Smith, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tishomingo, Tippah, Tunica, Union, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Webster, Winston, Yalobusha, and Yazoo

**North Carolina:** Ashe, Avery, Beaufort, Bertie, Buncombe, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Caswell, Catawba, Chatham, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Cumberland, Davidson, Davie, Durham, EBCI, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Franklin, Gaston, Gates, Graham, Granville, Greene, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Haywood, Henderson, Hertford, Hoke, Iredell, Jackson, Johnston, Lee, Lenoir, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, Martin, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, Northampton, Orange, Person, Pitt, Polk, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Rowan, Rutherford, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Union, Vance, Wake, Warren, Watauga, Wayne, Wilkes, Wilson, Yadkin, and Yancey

<sup>3</sup> 47 CFR § 4.17(a)(3)(i)-(v); *see also* FCC, *Wireless Network Resiliency During Disasters* (June 4, 2024), <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless-network-resiliency-during-disasters>.

<sup>4</sup> 47 CFR § 4.17.

**South Carolina:** Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Greenville, Greenwood, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Lee, Lexington, Marion, Marlboro, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Sumter, Union, Williamsburg, and York

**Tennessee:** Bedford, Benton, Cannon, Carroll, Cheatham, Chester, Clay, Coffee, Crockett, Davidson, Decatur, Dekalb, Dickson, Dyer, Fayette, Franklin, Gibson, Giles, Grundy, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Jackson, Lake, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Maury, McNairy, Montgomery, Moore, Obion, Overton, Perry, Pickett, Putnam, Robertson, Rutherford, Sequatchie, Shelby, Smith, Stewart, Sumner, Tipton, Trousdale, Van Buren, Warren, Wayne, Weakley, White, Williamson, and Wilson

**Virginia:** Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Bland, Brunswick, Buchanan, Buckingham, Campbell, Caroline, Carroll, Charles City, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Dickenson, Dinwiddie, Essex, Floyd, Fluvanna, Franklin, Goochland, Grayson, Greensville, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, Henry, James City, King & Queen, King George, King William, Lee, Louisa, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, Montogomery, Nelson, New Kent, Nottoway, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George, Prince William, Pulaski, Richmond County and City of Richmond, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Southampton, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Surry, Sussex, Tazewell, Washington, Westmoreland, Wise, Wythe, and York

Please continue to provide information for the impacted counties that are already in the disaster area.

The FCC continues to monitor this event and may amend the DIRS or MDRI activation area in the coming days.

For further information on this DIRS activation, please contact:

Michael Caiafa (202) 418-1311, [michael.caiafa@fcc.gov](mailto:michael.caiafa@fcc.gov)  
John Healy (215) 847-8094, [john.healy@fcc.gov](mailto:john.healy@fcc.gov)  
Juan Chapa, (202) 418-0431, [juan.chapa@fcc.gov](mailto:juan.chapa@fcc.gov)  
FCC 24/7 Operations Center (202) 418-1122, [fccoperationcenter@fcc.gov](mailto:fccoperationcenter@fcc.gov)

For further information concerning this MDRI activation, please contact:

Justin Cain, (202) 853-7365, (202) 418-2924, [justin.cain@fcc.gov](mailto:justin.cain@fcc.gov)  
Logan Bennett, (202) 418-7790, [logan.bennett@fcc.gov](mailto:logan.bennett@fcc.gov)  
FCC 24/7 Operations Center, (202) 418-1122, [fccops@fcc.gov](mailto:fccops@fcc.gov)

For more information on the FCC's response to Winter Storm Fern, please visit <https://www.fcc.gov/fern>.