



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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STATEMENT BY FCC COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN
ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU REPORT
“IMPACT OF THE JUNE 2012 DERECHO ON COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS
AND SERVICES”

“As the first section of the Communications Act makes clear, one of the critical missions of the Commission is to promote the safety of life and property through the use of wire and radio communications. As we know, 9-1-1 services are lifelines for citizens in times of personal emergencies and large scale natural disasters. When the Derecho struck the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic states in June of 2012, it left millions unable to contact 9-1-1 for varying periods of time due to carrier network problems. This is unacceptable and we must do all in our power to promote network reliability. A necessary first step is a thorough examination of 9-1-1 service outages. I commend David Turetsky and his staff in the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau for working diligently over the past six months, to compile an extensive record on the severe outages during the Derecho and for presenting recommendations to improve public safety communications.

“Today’s Report also appropriately explains, however, that communications network reliability issues were raised again by another devastating weather event -- Superstorm Sandy. We must thoroughly analyze and address these pressing issues during the field hearings Chairman Genachowski announced about that event.”