

Communications Status Report for Areas Impacted by Hurricane Fiona September 28, 2022

The following is a report on the status of communications services in geographic areas impacted by Hurricane Fiona as of September 28, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. EDT.¹ This report incorporates network outage data submitted by communications providers to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS). Note that the operational status of communications services during an event may evolve rapidly, and this report represents a snapshot in time.

The FCC deactivated DIRS for Hurricane Fiona in the U.S. Virgin Islands at 5:00 p.m. EDT on September 19, 2022.

The following counties/municipalities in Puerto Rico are in the current geographic area that is part of DIRS (the “disaster area”) for today’s report.

Puerto Rico: Adjuntas, Aguada, Aguadilla, Aguas Buenas, Aibonito, Anasco, Arecibo, Arroyo, Barceloneta, Barranquitas, Bayamon, Cabo Rojo, Caguas, Camuy, Canovanas, Carolina, Catano, Cayey, Ceiba, Ciales, Cidra, Coamo, Comerio, Corozal, Culebra, Dorado, Fajardo, Florida, Guanica, Guayama, Guayanilla, Guaynabo, Gurabo, Hatillo, Hormigueros, Humacao, Isabela, Jayuya, Juana Diaz, Juncos, Lajas, Lares, Las Marias, Las Piedras, Loiza, Luquillo, Manati, Maricao, Maunabo, Mayaguez, Moca, Morovis, Naguabo, Naranjito, Orocovis, Patillas, Penuelas, Ponce, Quebradillas, Rincon, Rio Grande, Sabana Grande, Salinas, San German, San Juan, San Lorenzo, San Sebastian, Santa Isabel, Toa Alta, Toa Baja, Trujillo Alto, Utuado, Vega Alta, Vega Baja, Vieques, Villalba, Yabucoa, and Yauco



¹ The National Hurricane Center upgraded Tropical Storm Fiona to Hurricane Fiona on September 18, 2022. See National Hurricane Center Advisory – Hurricane Fiona Advisory No. 17, <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/archive/2022/al07/al072022.public.017.shtml> (Sep 18, 2022)



911 Services

The Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) learns the status of each Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) through the filings of 911 Service Providers in DIRS, reporting to the FCC’s Public Safety Support Center, coordination with state 911 Administrators, and, if necessary, direct contact with individual PSAPs.

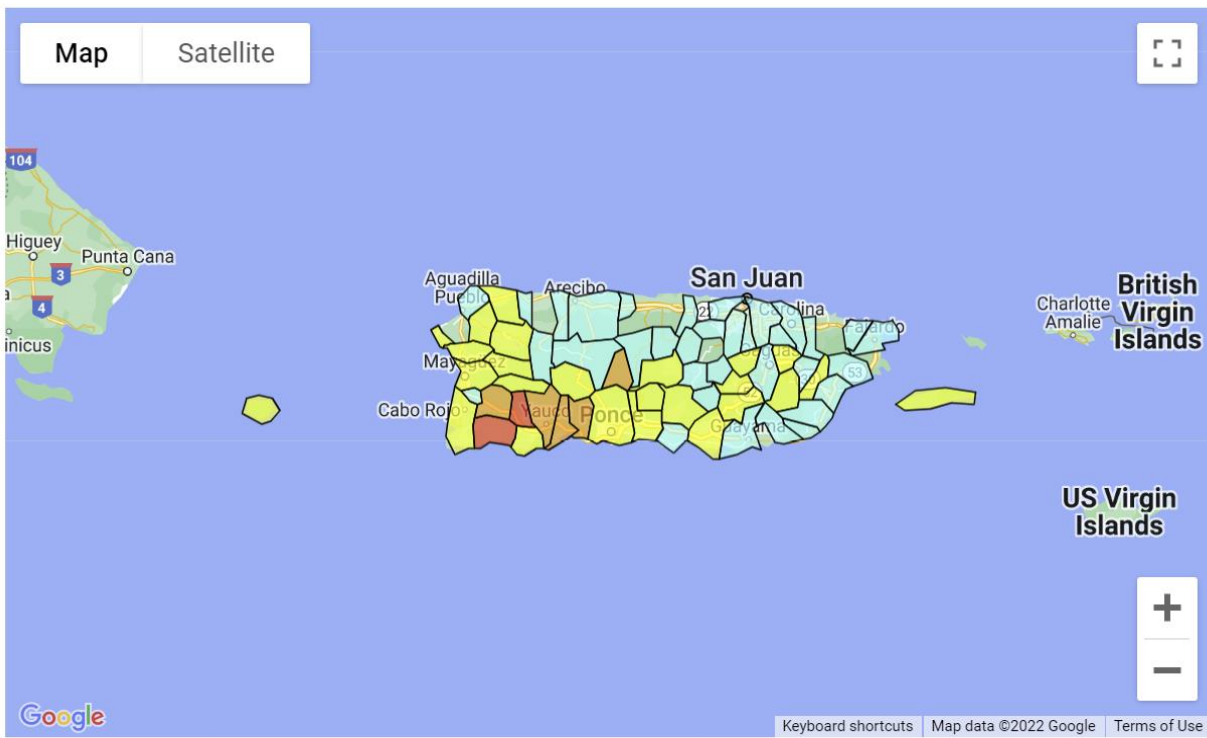
Puerto Rico: No PSAPs are reported as being affected.

Wireless Services

The following section describes the status of wireless communications services in the disaster area as reported in DIRS.

Percent Cell Sites Out-of-Service By County

9/28/2022 9:36:53 AM



1 - 15 16 - 30 31 - 45 46 - 60 61 - 100



The following table provides cell sites out of service by county. 11.7% of the cell sites in the affected area are out of service. The information shown was provided by communications carriers providing services in Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico

State	Affected Counties	Cell Sites Served	Cell Sites Out	Percent Out	Cell Sites Out Due to Damage	Cell Sites Out Due to Transport	Cell Sites Out Due to Power	Cell Sites Up but On Back-up Power
PR	ADJUNTAS	11	2	18.20%	0	0	2	4
PR	AGUADA	18	0	0.00%	0	0	0	3
PR	AGUADILLA	46	4	8.70%	0	0	4	7
PR	AGUAS BUENAS	19	3	15.80%	0	0	3	2
PR	AIBONITO	19	2	10.50%	0	0	2	2
PR	ANASCO	23	5	21.70%	0	0	5	2
PR	ARECIBO	48	3	6.30%	0	0	3	7
PR	ARROYO	12	0	0.00%	0	0	0	3
PR	BARCELONETA	21	2	9.50%	0	0	2	7
PR	BARRANQUITAS	18	2	11.10%	0	0	2	2
PR	BAYAMON	158	14	8.90%	0	0	14	17
PR	CABO ROJO	46	11	23.90%	0	0	11	14
PR	CAGUAS	107	11	10.30%	0	0	11	16
PR	CAMUY	14	0	0.00%	0	0	0	3
PR	CANOVANAS	24	1	4.20%	0	0	1	4
PR	CAROLINA	119	7	5.90%	0	0	7	19
PR	CATANO	23	0	0.00%	0	0	0	3
PR	CAYEY	40	10	25.00%	0	1	9	9
PR	CEIBA	11	0	0.00%	0	0	0	1
PR	CIALES	13	1	7.70%	0	0	1	2
PR	CIDRA	27	6	22.20%	0	0	6	7
PR	COAMO	17	4	23.50%	0	0	4	3
PR	COMERIO	16	2	12.50%	0	0	2	4
PR	COROZAL	23	1	4.30%	0	0	1	6
PR	CULEBRA	6	0	0.00%	0	0	0	1
PR	DORADO	34	0	0.00%	0	0	0	3
PR	FAJARDO	28	1	3.60%	0	0	1	4
PR	FLORIDA	6	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0

PR	GUANICA	17	5	29.40%	0	1	4	3
PR	GUAYAMA	28	3	10.70%	0	0	3	5
PR	GUAYANILLA	8	3	37.50%	0	1	2	3
PR	GUAYNABO	84	5	6.00%	0	0	5	12
PR	GURABO	31	5	16.10%	0	0	5	5
PR	HATILLO	32	3	9.40%	0	0	3	6
PR	HORMIGUEROS	8	1	12.50%	0	0	1	1
PR	HUMACAO	41	6	14.60%	0	0	6	10
PR	ISABELA	30	7	23.30%	0	0	7	5
PR	JAYUYA	7	3	42.90%	0	2	1	2
PR	JUANA DIAZ	27	5	18.50%	0	0	5	9
PR	JUNCOS	21	2	9.50%	0	0	2	3
PR	LAJAS	12	6	50.00%	0	1	5	3
PR	LARES	20	2	10.00%	0	0	2	3
PR	LAS MARIAS	11	3	27.30%	0	0	3	3
PR	LAS PIEDRAS	15	3	20.00%	0	0	3	2
PR	LOIZA	14	0	0.00%	0	0	0	2
PR	LUQUILLO	14	2	14.30%	0	0	2	1
PR	MANATI	36	0	0.00%	0	0	0	5
PR	MARICAO	6	1	16.70%	0	1	0	2
PR	MAUNABO	11	1	9.10%	0	0	1	3
PR	MAYAGUEZ	63	18	28.60%	0	0	18	15
PR	MOCA	22	5	22.70%	0	0	5	2
PR	MOROVIS	18	2	11.10%	0	2	0	4
PR	NAGUABO	18	1	5.60%	0	0	1	1
PR	NARANJITO	22	0	0.00%	0	0	0	3
PR	OROCOVIS	15	3	20.00%	0	0	3	4
PR	PATILLAS	11	1	9.10%	0	0	1	2
PR	PENUELAS	15	5	33.30%	0	1	4	1
PR	PONCE	93	23	24.70%	2	0	21	24
PR	QUEBRADILLAS	19	2	10.50%	0	0	2	4
PR	RINCON	12	2	16.70%	0	0	2	2
PR	RIO GRANDE	37	0	0.00%	0	0	0	6
PR	SABANA GRANDE	10	6	60.00%	0	1	5	1
PR	SALINAS	22	4	18.20%	0	0	4	4
PR	SAN GERMAN	27	9	33.30%	0	1	8	6
PR	SAN JUAN	342	21	6.10%	0	1	20	40
PR	SAN LORENZO	25	5	20.00%	0	0	5	6



PR	SAN SEBASTIAN	22	4	18.20%	0	0	4	4
PR	SANTA ISABEL	16	1	6.30%	0	0	1	3
PR	TOA ALTA	35	1	2.90%	0	0	1	4
PR	TOA BAJA	46	4	8.70%	0	0	4	4
PR	TRUJILLO ALTO	55	1	1.80%	0	0	1	5
PR	UTUADO	24	2	8.30%	0	2	0	5
PR	VEGA ALTA	28	1	3.60%	0	0	1	4
PR	VEGA BAJA	32	0	0.00%	0	0	0	5
PR	VIEQUES	10	2	20.00%	0	0	2	1
PR	VILLALBA	13	3	23.10%	0	0	3	4
PR	YABUCOA	29	4	13.80%	0	0	4	7
PR	YAUCO	21	7	33.30%	0	2	5	4
TOTAL		2,522	295	11.70%	2	17	276	418

The number of cell site outages in a specific area does not necessarily correspond to the availability of wireless service to consumers in that area. See Improving the Resiliency of Mobile Wireless Communications Networks, Order, 31 FCC Rcd 13745, para. 10 (2016) (recognizing the difficulties in accurately depicting the ongoing status of a wireless provider’s service during emergencies). Wireless networks are often designed with numerous, overlapping cell sites that provide maximum capacity and continuity of service even when an individual site is inoperable. In addition, wireless providers frequently use temporary facilities, such as cells-on-wheels (also known as COWs), increase power at operational sites, initiate roaming agreements, or take other actions to maintain service to affected consumers during emergencies or other events that result in cell site outages.

Cable Systems and Wireline (Combined)

Cable and wireline companies reported 132,400 subscribers out of service in the disaster area for Hurricane Fiona; this includes the loss of telephone, television, and/or Internet services. This is down from 194,586 subscribers as of yesterday.

Broadcast:

Television stations status:

- 1 TV station is reported as being out of service.

FM Radio stations status:

- 2 FM stations are reported as being out of service.

AM Radio stations status:

- 1 AM station is reported as being out of service.



Special Temporary Authority (STA)/Waivers/Extensions

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) may grant Special Temporary Authority (STA) to permit immediate or temporary operation of certain radio facilities during emergencies or other urgent conditions, as well as waivers to support emergency communications and service restoration.

- Extension of the Fiscal Year 2022 regulatory fee deadline date for regulatory fee payors in the affected areas of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands from 11:59 PM, Eastern Daylight Time, on September 28, 2022, to 11:59 PM, Eastern Daylight Time, on September 30, 2022.
- Extension of filing and regulatory deadlines in areas affected by Hurricane Fiona
- Waiver of number aging rule for providers affected by Hurricane Fiona
- Waiver offering relief for USF/Appropriated Programs participants in Puerto Rico that are affected by Hurricane Fiona
- Wireless Telecommunications Bureau conditionally grants Federated Wireless's request for an emergency waiver of sections 96.67(c)(2) and (3) of the Commission's rules
- Media Bureau extends public filing deadlines for broadcasters affected by Hurricane Fiona
- Wireless Telecommunications Bureau grants the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) a temporary waiver to permit amateur data transmissions at a higher symbol rate than currently is permitted
- Media Bureau grants STA for Community Through Colors to construct an emergency non-commercial FM station on Channel 211 (90.1 MHz), serving Vieques, PR, with 60 watts ERP, and providing critical public safety information
- Media Bureau grants STA for WUKQ-FM, Mayaguez, PR, to originate programming from its existing booster antenna that serves Ponce, PR. This is necessary because WUKQ-FM's tower collapsed during the storm. Note that the station is a designated state relay station for EAS
- Media Bureau grants 3 STAs for silent authority due to power loss to W27DZ-D and WOST in Mayaguez, and WWKQ-LD in Quebradillas