

Communications Status Report



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Communications Status Report for Areas Impacted by Winter Storm Fern

January 28, 2026

This report provides information on the status of communications services in geographic areas impacted by Winter Storm Fern as of 10:00 a.m. EST on January 28, 2026. This report incorporates network outage data submitted by communications providers to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS).¹ We note that the operational status of communications services may evolve rapidly during a disaster. The FCC will provide daily updates to this report until DIRS data collection is deactivated for this region.

On January 24, 2026 DIRS was expanded to include additional counties in Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Virginia and West Virginia.

On January 25, 2026 DIRS was expanded to include additional counties in Kentucky and was partially deactivated for certain counties in South Carolina.

On January 26, 2025 DIRS was partially deactivated for certain counties in Kentucky and South Carolina and fully deactivated for counties in Alabama, Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia

On January 27, 2026 DIRS was partially deactivated for certain counties in Tennessee and fully deactivated for the states of Kentucky and South Carolina.

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

Mississippi: Adams, Alcorn, Amite, 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

Tennessee: Benton, Cheatham, Chester, Clay, Davidson, Decatur, Dickson, Giles, Hardeman, Hardin, Henderson, Hickman, Lawrence, Macon, Marshall, Maury, McNairy, Montgomery,

¹ On January 23, 2026 the Commission activated the Disaster Information Reporting System for communications impacted by the severe related to Winter Storm Fern.

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Overton, Perry, Robertson, Rutherford, Shelby, Smith, Sumner, Trousdale, Wayne, Williamson, and Wilson



911 Services

The Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) learns the status of communications services provided to 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 and territory 911 Administrators, and, if necessary, direct contact with individual PSAPs.

There are no PSAPs reported in DIRS as being affected.

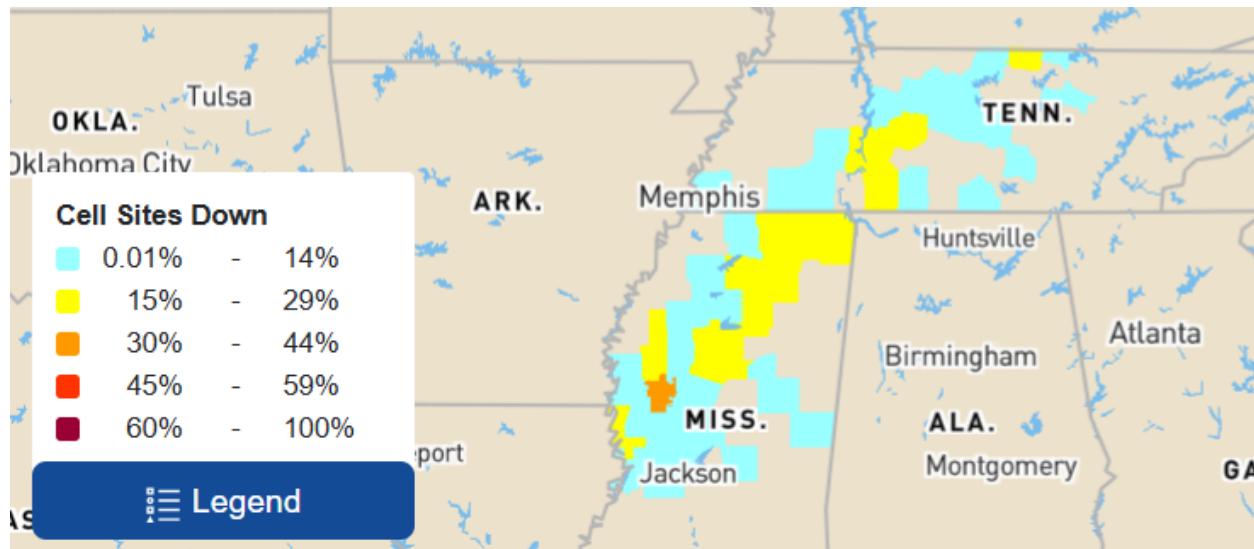
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Wireless Services

Percent of Cell Sites Out of Service



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

The following tables provide information on cell sites out of service by county. There is less than 3.2% of the cell sites in the affected area reported in DIRS as being out of service.

Mississippi:

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
MS	ADAMS	32	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	ALCORN	42	9	21.4%	0	2	7	19
MS	AMITE	22	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	ATTALA	25	0	0%	0	0	0	1
MS	BENTON	18	4	22.2%	0	0	4	10
MS	BOLIVAR	27	0	0%	0	0	0	2

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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
MS	CALHOUN	18	3	16.7%	1	2	0	3
MS	CARROLL	22	5	22.7%	0	1	4	6
MS	CHICKASAW	22	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	CHOCTAW	16	2	12.5%	0	1	0	0
MS	CLAIBORNE	14	0	0%	0	0	0	3
MS	CLARKE	32	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	CLAY	14	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	COAHOMA	22	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	COPIAH	35	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	COVINGTON	26	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	DESOTO	134	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	FRANKLIN	27	0	0%	0	0	0	3
MS	GRENADA	32	5	15.6%	0	0	5	8
MS	HINDS	211	1	0.5%	0	1	0	7
MS	HOLMES	29	3	10.3%	0	0	3	12
MS	HUMPHREYS	8	3	37.5%	0	1	2	0
MS	ISSAQUENA	4	1	25%	0	0	1	1
MS	ITAWAMBA	34	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	JASPER	34	0	0%	0	0	0	1
MS	JEFFERSON	33	0	0%	0	0	0	3
MS	JEFFERSON DAVIS	13	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	JONES	58	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	KEMPER	29	3	10.3%	0	3	0	4
MS	LAFAYETTE	99	16	16.2%	0	1	10	18
MS	LAUDERDALE	97	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	LAWRENCE	14	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	LEAKE	42	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	LEE	85	0	0%	0	0	0	2
MS	LEFLORE	27	3	11.1%	0	0	3	3
MS	LINCOLN	50	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	LOWNDES	68	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	MADISON	113	1	0.9%	0	0	1	1
MS	MARION	33	1	3%	0	1	0	6
MS	MARSHALL	48	5	10.4%	0	0	4	5

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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
MS	MONROE	51	0	0%	0	0	0	3
MS	MONTGOMERY	20	3	15%	0	0	3	6
MS	NESHOBIA	37	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	NEWTON	32	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	NOXUBEE	16	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	OKTIBBEHA	60	0	0%	0	0	0	3
MS	PANOLA	36	5	13.9%	0	0	4	6
MS	PIKE	47	1	2.1%	0	1	0	5
MS	PONTOTOC	46	8	17.4%	0	0	8	12
MS	PRENTISS	25	4	16%	0	0	4	1
MS	QUITMAN	9	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	RANKIN	177	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	SCOTT	36	1	2.8%	0	0	1	1
MS	SHARKEY	10	1	10%	0	0	1	4
MS	SIMPSON	32	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	SMITH	25	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	SUNFLOWER	20	5	25%	0	1	4	5
MS	TALLAHATCHIE	15	2	13.3%	0	0	2	4
MS	TATE	52	0	0%	0	0	0	3
MS	TIPPAH	28	7	25%	0	0	6	11
MS	TISHOMINGO	25	5	20%	0	0	3	6
MS	TUNICA	24	0	0%	0	0	0	4
MS	UNION	35	8	22.9%	0	0	7	8
MS	WARREN	60	2	3.3%	0	0	2	4
MS	WASHINGTON	32	1	3.1%	0	1	0	4
MS	WAYNE	33	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MS	WEBSTER	19	0	0%	0	0	0	1
MS	WINSTON	30	1	3.3%	0	0	1	1
MS	YALOBUSHA	22	2	9.1%	0	0	2	10
MS	YAZOO	44	4	9.1%	0	0	4	9
Total		2807	125	4.5%	1	16	96	229

There is 4.5% of cell sites reported as being out of service in the areas of Mississippi impacted by the severe winter weather.

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Tennessee:

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
TN	BENTON	27	0	0%	0	0	0	0
TN	CHEATHAM	38	4	10.5%	0	1	3	6
TN	CHESTER	20	1	5%	0	0	1	1
TN	CLAY	22	2	9.1%	0	0	2	0
TN	DAVIDSON	1132	36	3.2%	0	4	26	88
TN	DECATUR	15	3	20%	0	0	3	4
TN	DICKSON	62	1	1.6%	0	0	1	1
TN	GILES	54	0	0%	0	0	0	0
TN	HARDEMAN	37	1	2.7%	0	0	1	2
TN	HARDIN	27	0	0%	0	0	0	4
TN	HENDERSON	39	1	2.6%	0	0	1	3
TN	HICKMAN	34	7	20.6%	0	1	5	8
TN	LAWRENCE	35	2	5.7%	0	0	1	0
TN	MACON	19	3	15.8%	0	2	1	1
TN	MARSHALL	37	0	0%	0	0	0	0
TN	MAURY	79	0	0%	0	0	0	1
TN	MCNAIRY	37	4	10.8%	0	1	3	9
TN	MONTGOMERY	137	0	0%	0	0	0	0
TN	OVERTON	27	0	0%	0	0	0	0
TN	PERRY	12	3	25%	0	1	2	5
TN	ROBERTSON	62	0	0%	0	0	0	3
TN	RUTHERFORD	222	1	0.5%	0	0	0	0
TN	SHELBY	1152	1	0.1%	0	1	0	0
TN	SMITH	20	0	0%	0	0	0	0
TN	SUMNER	133	12	9%	0	2	8	26
TN	TROUSDALE	9	0	0%	0	0	0	0
TN	WAYNE	17	3	17.6%	0	1	0	1
TN	WILLIAMSON	216	3	1.4%	0	1	1	4
TN	WILSON	120	0	0%	0	0	0	2
Total		3841	88	2.3%	0	15	59	169

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There is 2.3% of cell sites reported as being out of service in the areas of Tennessee impacted by the severe winter weather.

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 79672 subscribers out of service in the disaster area. This includes the loss of telephone, television, and/or Internet services.

Broadcast:

Television station status:

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

FM Radio station status:

- There are 13 FM stations reported as being out of service.

AM Radio station status:

- There are no AM stations reported as being out of service.

Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative

The Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative was activated for Winter Storm Fern response activities on January 23, 2026. As a reminder, all facilities-based mobile wireless providers operating in the above-referenced areas are hereby notified and required to: (1) provide for reasonable roaming under disaster arrangements when technically feasible;² (2) activate mutual

² See 47 CFR § 4.17(a)(3)(i) (detailing criteria for activating roaming under disaster arrangements).

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aid arrangements with other facilities-based mobile wireless providers for providing aid upon request to those providers during emergencies;³ (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.⁴

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.

- On January 23, 2026, the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau conditionally granted Federated Wireless, Inc.'s request for a precautionary, limited, and conditional emergency waiver of sections 96.67(c)(2) and (3) of the Commission's rules governing the Citizens Broadband Radio Service. The link(s) for the document are as follows: [DA-26-73A1.docx](#) , [DA-26-73A1.pdf](#) , [DA-26-73A1.txt](#)

³ See 47 CFR § 4.17(a)(3)(ii) (explaining what mutual aid arrangements must include).

⁴ 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>.