



PUBLIC NOTICE

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THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION NARROWS THE SCOPE OF THE DISASTER INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM AND THE MANDATORY DISASTER RESPONSE INITIATIVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS IMPACTED BY HURRICANE HELENE

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), at the request of the States of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, and in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has announced a deactivation of the Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS) and the Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative (MDRI) for the following counties affected by Hurricane Helene:

Florida: Alachua, Baker, Bay, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Calhoun, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Columbia, DeSoto, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Glades, Gulf, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lake, Lee, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Marion, Monroe, Nassau, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Volusia, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington.¹

Georgia: Atkinson, Baker, Baldwin, Banks, Barrow, Bartow, Bibb, Bleckley, Brantley, Brooks, Butts, Calhoun, Camden, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattahoochee, Chattooga, Cherokee, Clarke, Clay, Clayton, Cobb, Colquitt, Coweta, Crawford, Crisp, Dade, Dawson, Decatur, DeKalb, Dooley, Dougherty, Douglas, Early, Elbert, Evans, Fannin, Fayette, Floyd, Forsyth, Franklin, Fulton, Gilmer, Glynn, Gordon, Greene, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, Haralson, Harris, Heard, Henry, Houston, Irwin, Jackson, Jasper, Jones, Lamar, Laurens, Lee, Lumpkin, Macon, Madison, Marion, Meriwether, Miller, Mitchell, Monroe, Morgan, Murray, Muscogee, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Paulding, Peach, Pickens, Pike, Polk, Pulaski, Putnam, Quitman, Rabun, Randolph, Rockdale, Schley, Seminole, Spalding, Stephens, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, Terrell, Thomas, Tift, Towns, Troup, Turner, Twiggs, Union, Upson, Walker, Walton, Ware, Washington, Webster, White, Whitfield, Wilcox, Wilkinson, and Worth.

Communications providers do not need to provide any additional reporting in DIRS for these areas in Florida and Georgia with respect to Hurricane Helene. The FCC will, however, continue to monitor the status of communications services and work with providers and government partners in these areas as needed to support remaining restoration efforts. Facilities-based mobile wireless providers are no longer required to perform MDRI-related functions for the states of Florida and Georgia.² The Network Outage Reporting System reporting obligations under Part 4 of the

¹ *The Federal Communications Commission Announces the Activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS) and the Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative (MDRI) for Communications Impacts from Hurricane Helene in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina*, Public Notice, DA 24-991 (rel. Sept. 25, 2024) ("DIRS and MDRI Activation PN").

² Note that the MDRI had been activated in response to Hurricane Helene for the states of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina *See DIRS and MDRI Activation PN* at 1. DIRS and MDRI activation was later expanded to additional counties in South Carolina, and to counties in the State of Tennessee and the Commonwealth

Commission's rules, which were suspended for providers reporting in DIRS while DIRS was activated, are now again in effect for any new network outages for the areas in Florida and Georgia covered by DIRS reporting for Hurricane Helene.³

DIRS remains activated in the following counties:

Florida: Hamilton.

Georgia: Appling, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Bryan, Bulloch, Burke, Candler, Charlton, Chatham, Clinch, Coffee, Columbia, Cook, Dodge, Echols, Effingham, Emanuel, Glascock, Grady, Hancock, Hart, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Lanier, Liberty, Lincoln, Long, Lowndes, McDuffie, McIntosh, Montgomery, Pierce, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Tattnall, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Warren, Wayne, Wheeler, and Wilkes.

North Carolina: Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey.

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: Carter, Cocke, Greene, Jefferson, Johnson, Sevier, Unicoi, and Washington.

Virginia: Alleghany, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Buchanan, Carroll, Craig, Dickenson, Floyd, Franklin, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Highland, Lee, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Roanoke, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe.

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

The MDRI remains activated in the following counties:

Florida: Hamilton.

Georgia: Appling, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Bryan, Bulloch, Burke, Candler, Charlton, Chatham, Clinch, Coffee, Columbia, Cook, Dodge, Echols, Effingham, Emanuel, Glascock, Grady, Hancock, Hart, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Lanier, Liberty, Lincoln, Long, Lowndes, McDuffie, McIntosh,

of Virginia. *See The Federal Communications Commission Announces the Expansion of the Disaster Information Reporting System and the Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative for Communications Impacted by Hurricane Helene*, Public Notice, DA 24-1015 (rel. Sept. 27, 2024).

³ 47 CFR § 4.9(a) (cable); 47 CFR § 4.9(e) (wireless); 47 CFR § 4.9(f) (wireline); 47 CFR § 4.9(g) (interconnected VoIP); *see also* 47 CFR § 4.18(a) (suspending NORS requirements for cable communications, wireless, wireline, and interconnected VoIP providers required to report in DIRS pertaining to any incidents arising during the DIRS activation and that are timely reported in DIRS).

Montgomery, Pierce, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Tattnall, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Warren, Wayne, Wheeler, and Wilkes.

North Carolina: Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey.

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: Carter, Cocke, Greene, Jefferson, Johnson, Sevier, Unicoi, and Washington.

Virginia: Alleghany, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Buchanan, Carroll, Craig, Dickenson, Floyd, Franklin, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Highland, Lee, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Roanoke, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe.

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

For further information concerning DIRS, please contact:

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For further information concerning the MDRI, please contact:

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For more information on the FCC's response to Hurricane Helene, please go to www.fcc.gov/Helene.

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