

10-Digit Dialing for Local Calls Starts Sunday In 35 U.S. States

The change affects dozens of area codes ahead of the implementation of a three-digit suicide crisis hotline.

As the FCC moves to adopt 988 as a new three-digit number to reach the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Line, residents living in dozens of U.S. area codes will now be required to dial all 10 digits when making local calls.

ACROSS AMERICA — Sunday is the day residents of multiple states will be required to dial a few extra numbers when calling their next-door neighbor or a friend on the other side of town.

As the Federal Communications Commission moves to adopt 988 as a new three-digit number to reach the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Line, residents living in dozens of U.S. area codes will now be required to dial all 10 digits when making local calls.

That three-digit number — 988 — had previously been assigned as a prefix in 82 area codes in 35 states as well as the U.S. territory of Guam.

If callers attempt to dial only seven digits on or after Oct. 24, they are likely to get the familiar "your call cannot be completed as dialed" message.

See a full list of [affected area codes](#).

Let's go!

To prepare for the switch, telephone users in the affected areas were asked to start dialing the three-digit area code when making local calls by April 24, even if the person they're calling lives right across the street.

Many people already have to use 10-digit dialing because of area code "overlays" — that is, regions where more than one area code is assigned because of the demand for phone numbers.

However, simply dialing all 10 digits isn't the only thing you'll need to remember.

You'll also need to reprogram automatic dialing equipment — for example, life safety systems or medical monitoring devices; fire, burglary and security alarm systems; speed dialers; cell phone contact lists; call forwarding services; voicemail services; and other similar functions.

You'll also have to change your email signature or stationery if they don't include the area code.

The bottom line: You should literally think of everything that has your address on it, including your pet ID tags, and make sure the area code is in the contact number.

People making calls on landlines will still dial 1+ for long-distance calls.

Regardless of the phone they're using, residents of California will have to dial 1+ the 10-digit number, as will people in parts of Illinois.

Emergency service calls to 911 and 711 (a relay service used by people who are deaf or hearing impaired) will be made as they are now, by dialing the three digits. Any 211, 311, 411, 511, 611 or 811 services available in your community can still be reached by dialing their three-digit codes.

NPAs REQUIRED TO TRANSITION TO 10-DIGIT DIALING

The following 82 area codes¹ currently permit 7-digit dialing and also use 988 as a central office code.

Providers operating in these NPAs must implement 10-digit dialing.

Transitioning to 10-digit dialing

involves both the technical work needed to implement mandatory 10-digit dialing as well as educating

consumers about the transition:

STATE NPAs AFFECTED TOTAL NPAs

Alaska 907 1

Alabama 251 1

Arkansas 501 1

Arizona 480, 520, 928 3

California 209, 530, 562, 626, 650, 707, 925, 949, 951 9

Colorado 719, 970 2

Delaware 302 1

Florida 321 (Brevard County only), 352, 561, 941 4

Georgia 478, 912 2

Guam 671 1

Hawaii 808 1

Illinois 309, 618, 708 3

Indiana 219, 574 2

Iowa 319, 515 2

Kansas 620, 785 2

Kentucky 859 1

Louisiana 337, 504 2

Michigan 616, 810, 906, 989 4

Minnesota 218, 952 2

Mississippi 662 1

Missouri 314, 417, 660, 816 4

Montana 406 1

Nevada 775 1

New Hampshire 603 1

New Jersey 856, 908 2

New Mexico 505, 575 2

New York 516, 607, 716, 845, 914 5

North Carolina 910 1

Ohio 440, 513 2

South Dakota 605 1

Tennessee 731, 865 2

Texas 254, 361, 409, 806, 830, 915, 940 7

Vermont 802 1

Virginia 276, 804 2

Washington 509 1

Wisconsin 262, 414, 608, 920 4

TOTAL NPAs 82

The list of 87 area codes was reduced to 82 area codes after removing five area codes, that are either already transitioning to 10- digit dialing due to an overlay or due to the return of 904-988 and 701-988.

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