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For Immediate Release

**CHAIRWOMAN ROSENWORCEL CITES PREPARATIONS FOR
HURRICANE SEASON**

*Notes that FCC Has Taken a Series of Actions to Help the Public Reach Emergency
Services and Communicate During Disasters*

WASHINGTON, June 4, 2024—As Atlantic hurricane season begins, Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel highlighted actions the agency has taken to help the public reach emergency services, receive emergency information, and communicate during disasters. Rosenworcel also cited steps that state officials and consumers can take to prepare for hurricanes, wildfires, and other disasters.

“During crises, the importance of staying connected takes on additional urgency—and the Commission is continuing to do its part to improve communications reliability and resiliency for first responders and consumers,” **said Chairwoman Rosenworcel**. “After each hurricane, we examine what worked, what didn’t work, and what lessons we can apply to improve access to communications during future disasters. That led us to adopt the new Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative, which requires wireless providers to collaborate during disasters so that people can stay connected when they most need it.”

Chairwoman Rosenworcel encouraged state public safety partners to learn how they can use the FCC’s Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative and Outage Information Sharing programs to best serve their communities, and also suggested consumers review the FCC’s [tips](#) for staying connected during emergencies.

Among actions the FCC has taken in recent years to promote communications reliability and public safety:

Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative (MDRI) – New FCC rules, in effect as of May, require wireless providers to engage in specific actions, including establishing roaming agreements and sharing physical assets, to reduce the impact of wireless outages and support faster service restoration during emergencies. The Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative is activated when certain emergency conditions are met. Today, the FCC [announced procedures](#) for how states can request activation.

Outage Information Sharing – Under this program, the FCC shares communications outage information submitted to the agency by industry with first responders and other emergency management personnel in state, federal, territorial, and Tribal agencies. This data can improve officials’ situational awareness during disasters, enhance their ability to respond more quickly to outages affecting their communities, and help save lives. Applicable agencies can apply for access to the information if they have not already done so.

Improving Outage Reporting – Earlier this year, the FCC updated its rules, and proposed additional updates, to improve communications network reliability, resiliency, and transparency during disasters and outages. The FCC expanded use of its Disaster Information Reporting System, in which service providers report on their infrastructure’s operational status during emergencies, and proposed to close additional outage reporting gaps.

Multilingual Emergency Alerting – The FCC also recently [adopted rules](#) that will add support for additional languages and features to Wireless Emergency Alerts and [proposed rules](#) to expand the multilingual capabilities of the Emergency Alert System.

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