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Dial Tones

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New Mexico 505/575 Area Code Split

New 575 Area Code
Effective October 7, 2007

Important News About the New 575 Area Code in New Mexico

On October 7, 2007, the state of New Mexico will be split into two area codes. The northwest region of the state will retain its current area code (505), and the rest of the state will get a new area code (575).

Your local calls will continue to be dialed with seven-digit dialing; long-distance calls will require full 10-digit dialing, so be sure to use the new area code when making these calls.

Here are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the new area code change.

Why is the new area code necessary?

New Mexico is running out of usable telephone numbers due to growth in state residents, communications service providers, available products, and additional lines, so the state needs to add a new area code to meet demand.

When will the new area code go into effect?

The area code change will be effective October 7, 2007. For nearly a year afterward, however, callers will be able to use either the new or old area code to complete their calls. This period is called a "permissive dialing" period. **Mandatory use of the correct area code will begin October 5, 2008.**

Who will have the new area code?

The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission has divided the state into two regions, called Area A and Area B. Area A, which includes the southern and eastern portions of the state – including Las Cruces, Alamogordo, Roswell, Silver City, Deming, Clovis, Raton and Taos – will get the new 575 area code. Area B – the roughly five-county area that includes Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Gallup, Farmington, Las Vegas, Espanola and most of the Navajo Nation – will retain the 505 area code.

What will not change?

Local calling areas will remain the same; your seven-digit telephone number will be the same; calls to 911 emergency calls will be the same; calls to telephone numbers with 500, 700, 800, 877, 888, 900, and 950 area codes will be the same; and call to Directory Assistance will be the same.

How will the new area code impact my home telephone service?

You'll continue to receive the same great service you're used to, but you may want to do some of the following things to make sure you continue to receive calls from family and friends:

- Notify those people and businesses who call you of the change if you who live in the area of the state that is getting the new area code.
- Change your area code if it appears on things like stationery or checks.
- Check to see if you need to reprogram equipment like automatic-dialers, fax machines or computer modems before October 5, 2008.

Be sure everyone in your household knows your new area code, paying particular attention to children, the disabled, and the elderly.

What should I do to be sure my business telephone service continues to operate smoothly?

- All businesses in New Mexico should verify that their telephone equipment is capable of completing calls to the new 575 area code. New area codes across the country, like the new 575 area code, use a different format than area codes in the past, which could only have a 1 or a 0 as the middle digit. Some telephone equipment used by businesses will not recognize the new area code until that equipment has been reprogrammed or upgraded.
- You may need to reprogram or upgrade your equipment if your business uses specialized communications equipment like a PBX, electronic telephone sets, auto-dial systems or multi-line key systems. Test your telephone equipment to determine if it recognizes the new 575 area code beginning October 7, 2007, by calling free test numbers: **575 600-1234, 575 580-0575, or 575 295-0000**. Remember that you may need to dial a "1" if these numbers are long distance. If a call to the test number does not go through, contact your equipment provider. If your equipment is not the cause of your problem, please call **your service provider**.