

The New 235 Area Code is Coming to the Missouri 573 Area Code Region

To ensure a continuing supply of telephone numbers, the Missouri Public Service Commission approved the addition of a new 235 area code to the geographic region served by the 573 area code. This process is known as an area code overlay.

What is an area code overlay?

An overlay is the addition of another area code (235) to the same geographic region as an existing area code (573). An overlay does not require customers to change their existing area code. However, it does require using a new dialing procedure to complete local calls.

Who will be affected?

Anyone with a 573 area code telephone number (573-XXX-XXXX) will be affected. The 573 area code currently serves most of the eastern half of Missouri and includes the state capitol of Jefferson City. It serves communities such as Columbia, Cape Girardeau, Farmington, Fort Leonard Wood, Hannibal, Poplar Bluff, Rolla, Sikeston, and many other smaller communities. The new 235 area code will serve the same geographic area served by the 573 area code.

What will be the new dialing procedure?

To complete all local calls, you will now need to dial **area code + telephone number (XXX-XXX-XXXX)**. This applies to all calls within the 573 area code currently dialed with seven digits. The same dialing procedure will apply to telephone numbers assigned with the new 235 area code.

When will the change begin?

Beginning **August 26, 2023**, you should begin dialing dial 10 digits (573 + telephone number) for all local calls. If you forget and dial just seven digits, the call will still be completed.

Starting **February 24, 2024**, you must dial 10 digits (573 + telephone number) for all local calls. On and after this date, local calls dialed with only 7 digits will not be completed, and a recording will inform you that your call cannot be completed as dialed. You must hang up and dial again using the area code and the 7-digit number.

Beginning **March 24, 2024**, new telephone lines and services may be assigned numbers with the new 235 area code. If you have a 235 area code, you must dial the area code + telephone number (235-XXX-XXXX) for all local calls or your calls will not complete.

What will you need to do if your area code is 573 or 235?

In addition to changing the way you dial local calls, all services, automatic dialing equipment, and other types of equipment programmed to complete calls to 7-digit local numbers will need reprogrammed to complete calls to 10-digit numbers.

- Some examples are: life safety systems or medical monitoring devices, PBXs, fax machines, Internet dial-up numbers, fire or burglar alarm and security systems or gates, speed dialers, mobile or other wireless phone contact lists, call forwarding settings, voicemail services and other similar functions.
- Be sure to check websites, personal and business stationery, advertising materials, personal and business checks, contact information, personal or pet ID tags, and other such items to ensure the area code is included.

What will remain the same?

- Your telephone number, including current area code, will not change.
- The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the overlay.
- You will continue to dial 1+ area code + telephone number for all long-distance calls.
- What is a local call now will remain a local call regardless of the number of digits dialed.
- You can still dial just three digits to reach 711 (relay services) and 911 (emergency services).
- Any 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 811 or 988 services available in your community can still be reached by dialing their three-digit codes.

Who may you contact with questions?

If you have any questions regarding this information, please call Fidelity Communications at 800-392-8070, access www.fidelitycommunications.com, or the Missouri Public Service Commission at https://psc.mo.gov/Telecommunications/Telephone_NumbersLocal_Dialing.