



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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NEW FCC INITIATIVE ENCOURAGES TRS FACILITIES' PARTICIPATION IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PRIORITY PROGRAM

Washington, DC – The FCC has launched a program to encourage participation in the Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) Program. The TSP provides national security and emergency preparedness (NSEP) users with priority authorization to use telecommunications services that are vital to coordinating and responding to crises.

As a result of hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and other natural or man-made disasters, telecommunications service providers may become overwhelmed with requests for new telecommunications services and requirements to restore existing telecommunications services. The TSP Program provides service vendors with an FCC mandate for prioritizing service requests by identifying those services critical to NSEP. A telecommunications service with an FCC-sponsored TSP assignment is assured of receiving full attention by the service vendor before a non-TSP service.

This initiative promotes the homeland security policy of shared responsibility, shared accountability and shared leadership to ensure the efficient operation of our country's infrastructure during emergencies.

The goal of the new FCC initiative is to ensure and encourage participation in the program by all Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) facilities. These facilities are essential in ensuring reliable and effective communications between persons with hearing and speech disabilities and emergency services and other persons. In the event of a disaster, all appropriate steps should be taken to ensure that service to TRS facilities is made available in time of emergency.

In carrying out this initiative, FCC will:

- ¶ Provide educational information to all TRS facilities about the TSP program and encourage their immediate participation.
- ¶ Sponsor TRS facilities' applications to the National Communications System to participate in the TSP, as requested.

3 Coordinate with TRS facilities' telecommunications carriers to identify the particular circuits or lines that link the facility to the switch, or other circuits or lines upon which the facilities relies to handle TRS calls, as requested.

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