

Phase Out of 3G Cellular Networks

9-1-1 UNAVAILABLE FOR 3G NETWORK/CELL PHONES IN 2022

Plan Ahead for Phase Out of 3G Cellular Networks and Service!

If your mobile phone is more than a few years old, **you may need to upgrade your device before your mobile provider shuts down its 3G network, to avoid losing service.** For more information on your mobile providers' plans for 3G retirement and how you can prepare, **contact your provider directly.**

What is happening?

Mobile carriers are shutting down their 3G networks, which rely on older technology, to make room for more advanced network services, including 5G. As a result, **many older cell phones will be unable to make or receive calls and texts, including calls to 911, or use data services.** This will affect 3G mobile phones and certain older 4G mobile phones that do not support Voice over LTE (VoLTE or HD Voice).

Other devices that rely on older 3G cellular service may also be affected such as older home security systems, older medical alert devices and older vehicles with built in connectivity, such as On Star.

When is it happening?

As early as January 1, 2022, though plans and timing to phase out 3G services will vary by company and may change. Consult your mobile provider's website for the most up-to-date information.

- AT&T announced that it will finish shutting down its 3G network by February 2022.
- Verizon announced that it will finish shutting down its 3G network by December 31, 2022.
- T-Mobile announced that it will finish shutting down Sprint's 3G CDMA network by March 31, 2022

If your mobile carrier is not listed here, you may still be affected. Many carriers, such as Cricket, Boost, Straight Talk, and several Lifeline mobile service providers, utilize AT&T's, Verizon's, and T-Mobile's networks.

What You need to do?

Contact your mobile provider or consult your provider's website for more information about their 3G retirement plan and whether your phone, or other connected device, may be affected. It is important to plan now so that you don't lose connectivity, including the ability to call 911.

Articles and References

<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/plan-ahead-phase-out-3g-cellular-networks-and-service>

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