

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). This change will apply to wireline and wireless service as well as other communications services.

Local calls within your area code will continue to be dialed with 7-digit dialing; local calls from one area code to another area code will require 10-digit dialing. All long distance calls will require 1+10-digit dialing. Remember to use the new 575 area code as needed.

Here are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the new 575 area code change.

Why is the new area code necessary?

New Mexico is running out of telephone numbers due to growth in state residents, communications service providers, available telecommunications products, and additional lines. The state is adding the new 575 area code to meet the demand for additional telephone numbers.

When will the new 575 area code go into effect?

The new 575 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 new 575 area code will begin October 5, 2008.

Who will have the new 575 area code?

The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission has divided the state into two regions. The southern and eastern portions of the state, including Alamogordo, Carlsbad, Clovis, Deming, Hobbs, Las Cruces, Penasco, Roswell, Raton, Silver City, and Taos, will be served by the new 575 area code. The northwestern region of the state, including Albuquerque, Espanola, Farmington, Gallup, Las Vegas, Santa Fe, Shiprock, and most of the Navajo Nation, will retain the 505 area code.

What will not change?

Local calling areas will remain the same; the price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change. Your seven-digit telephone number will be the same. You can still dial just three digits to reach 911 and 411. If 211, 311, 511, 611, 711 and 811 are currently available in your community you can still dial them with just three digits.