

CALIFORNIA 559/357 AREA CODE OVERLAY

To ensure a continuing supply of telephone numbers, the California Public Utilities Commission approved the addition of the new 357 area code to the geographic region served by the 559-area code. This process is known as an area code overlay. <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/area-codes-and-numbering/559-area-code>

What is an area code overlay?

An overlay is the addition of another area code (357) to the same geographic region as an existing area code (559). An overlay does not require customers to change their existing area code but does require using a new dialing procedure to complete calls.

Who will be affected?

Anyone with the 559-area code telephone number will be affected. The new 357 area code will serve the same geographic area currently served by the existing 559 area code.

What will be the new dialing procedure?

To complete calls from a wireless phone with a 559 or 357 area code, the new dialing procedure requires you to dial the area code and 7-digit phone number. To complete calls from a landline phone with a 559 or 357 area code, the new dialing procedure requires you to dial 1+ the area code and 7-digit phone number.

Key Dates:

August 26, 2024, you should begin dialing the area code + telephone number or 1+ area code + telephone number whenever you place a call. At this time, if you forget and dial just seven digits your call will still be completed.

February 26, 2025, you must dial the area code + telephone number or 1+ area code + telephone number on all calls, including calls within the same area code. At this time, if you dial just seven digits your calls will not be completed.

March 26, 2025, new telephone lines or services may be assigned numbers with the new 357 area code. If you receive a number in the new 357 area code, you must use the new dialing procedure.

What will you need to do?

Reprogram all safety systems and medical monitoring devices, fire or burglar alarms, security systems or gates, PBXs, fax machines, Internet dial-up numbers, cordless and mobile phone contact lists, speed dialers, call forwarding settings, voicemail services, and other similar services or equipment.

What will remain the same?

- Your telephone number, including your current area code.
- The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the overlay.
- You can still dial just three digits to reach 911 and 988, as well as 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711 or 811 if available in your area.