



**Hamilton Fire Division**  
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## **Fire Safety Fact Sheet**

### **Is your fire alarm system ready for the discontinuation of 3G Communication?**

With technology constantly evolving to support increased demands, cellular companies continue to transition equipment and support to newer and faster networks. The “next generation” of cellular data support is here, with new towers built for LTE and 5G networks. As a result, slower and outdated networks such as 3G are being phased out and eventually discontinued.

**This is called “sunsetting,” and by the end of 2022  
3G networks will be completely shut down.**

### **How does this impact your fire alarm system?**

Many fire alarm systems use cellular networks to transmit and report emergencies to local fire stations, providing you with the help you need—fast. Once 3G networks are shut down, any alarm panel that hasn’t been converted to 4G/LTE networks will no longer be able to communicate with your central station. If there is an emergency, your central station will not know to call the authorities or send help.

**AT&T shut down was February 2022**

**T-Mobile and Sprint will be in Spring of 2022**

**Verizon will be by the end of 2022.**

## What can you do to ensure your fire alarm system works?

The good news is that you don't need a whole new fire alarm system, just a cellular communicator update to keep it working with the updated cellular networks. If you haven't already, you should begin to convert all of your 3G network devices to 4G/LTE as soon as you can to ensure that your system keeps reporting fire alarms and sending for help in an emergency.

### What is 4G and how is it better?

The G in 4G stands for generation, so 4G is the fourth generation of cellular network technology. In some cases, you may see or hear the term 4G LTE. The term LTE applies more generally to the idea of improving wireless broadband speeds to meet increasing demand; 4G LTE is faster than 4G but slower than true 4G.

Some of the benefits of newer 4G products and devices include:

- Faster communication
- Better frequencies to penetrate walls and buildings
- Longer lifespan
- Improved, real-time connectivity to apps used to control alarm systems

You may have heard about 5G being the latest and the greatest technology out there, and that is true, however industry professionals explain that 5G is designed for consumer cellular use, not fire/alarm use and therefore your upgraded LTE equipment will not need to be replaced for many years to come.

**Contact your service provider to verify your communicator is updated.**

Any questions or concerns feel free to call our office 609-890-6927