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Lower Plaquemines Parish is Changing to Area Code 504

Beginning **July 29, 2007**, communities in Lower Plaquemines Parish will change from area code 985 to area code 504. The change is a result of AT&T Louisiana's efforts to strengthen its network and better protect low-lying areas from future telephone service disruptions caused by major hurricanes.

The telephone switches in many of these coastal communities were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. In the aftermath of that powerful storm, the company began providing telephone service to these communities from telephone switches in New Orleans in order to expedite service restoration. Now that these initial repairs are being made permanent, residents and businesses in these areas will be able to dial more communities on a local basis.

Beginning **July 29, 2007**, calls placed to the communities of Buras, Pointe-a-la-Hache, Port Sulphur and Venice may be made by using either the 985 or the 504 area code. Starting **May 1, 2008**, the nine-month transition period will end and callers must use the 504 area code to reach these communities.

Businesses may need to reprogram their speed dialing lists and customer-owned telephone equipment as a result of this change. Businesses in these communities may need to reprint their checks, personal stationery and other printed materials that contain their area code. Visit our Web site at www.bellsouth.com/areacode for more information.

Graphic Design Note: Article accompanied by a graphic of Louisiana highlighting the area code changes in the southeast portion of the state.

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