

Gregory M. Laurain
Director of Public Safety

Van Buren Township Police
46425 Tyler Rd.,
Van Buren Twp, MI 48111
734-699-8934
Vanburen-mi.org



Press Release

WIRELESS CARRIERS DISCONTINUING 3G NETWORKS

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, Mich., September 15, 2021- The Van Buren Township Dispatch and Public Safety Department wants to inform the community that the end of 3G wireless connection is rapidly approaching. Wireless carriers will discontinue support of 3G devices in 2022. Older style 3G models of Tracfonos, flip phones, Jitterbugs, etc. will be discontinued as early as January 2022. 3G devices will not only be disabled from normal use, but will also be unable to dial or call 9-1-1.

The FCC has asked everyone to plan ahead for the phase-out of 3G. "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 9-1-1, 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)." - from FCC.gov.

This could impact other devices, such as certain medical devices, tablets, smartwatches, vehicle SOS services, home security systems, and other connected products that are using 3G networks. If your device is not labeled, contact the monitoring company or other service provider to confirm how the device connects and whether your device may be impacted.

"We're asking that everyone checks their device and checks on the devices of their loved ones to make sure everyone remains connected to each other," said Public Safety Director Greg Laurain. "We want to make sure you and your loved ones will always be able to reach 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency."

For additional information visit vanburen-mi.org.

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