



Bell Ringer

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E-Statement is Everything...

Easy - Efficient - Effortless - Eco-Friendly

Easy, efficient, as well as eco-friendly... Why wouldn't you sign up for E-Statement from ITC? If you currently mail your bill or drop it off at one of our offices, we would like to encourage you to sign up for Auto-Pay and go paperless with E-Statement. Sign up for both services now, and we will give you a **bill credit for \$25**. The best part about signing up for both services is you never have to leave home to pay your bill or worry about it being late. If you only sign up for one of these services, we'll still give you a \$10 bill credit.

When you sign up for Auto-Pay, your bill amount is deducted from your account every month. If you pay using your checking account, your bill will be deducted on the 10th of the month. If you pay with a credit or debit card, you can choose the date (from the 1st to the 17th of the month). Call ITC's offices at 1.800.417.8667 to sign up.

When you sign up for E-Statement and go paperless, ITC will notify you via email that your bill is ready each month. You can log in to see the information, save it, or print it if you want a paper record. Your monthly newsletter, the Bell Ringer, will also be delivered via email. To go paperless, sign in to www.itcebill.com/estatement/login and follow the instructions to the right.

It's easy to save time, paper, and money. Go paperless with E-Statement and sign up for Auto-Pay to get a \$25 credit off your next bill! Do it today!



To Go Paperless:

1. Log into E-Statement.
2. Go to "Setting" and click the "General" tab.
3. Under "Invoice Preference, choose "Web Bill Only."
4. Then click "Change Preference."

Call Before You Dig

Summer is here, which means it's time for construction projects around the house. Whether you are digging a new garden spot or holes for a new fence, be sure to call "811," the South Dakota One Call System. The call is free and could save you money in fines.

The South Dakota One Call System is for excavators to notify utility companies of their intent to dig. When you call 811, the South Dakota One Call System notifies utility companies with buried lines in the area. The utility companies have 48 hours to mark their lines. Do not start digging until 48 hours have passed. If the utility company doesn't respond, please call the South Dakota One Call System again. The utility companies will only mark lines that they own. Private lines need to be located by the private locating firm and are your responsibility.

If you live in Minnesota, the number to call is 811 or 1.800.252.1166.

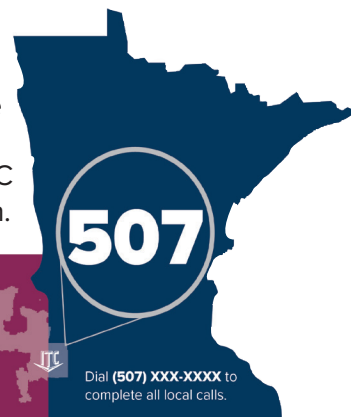


Start 10-Digit Dialing Today!

988, the new National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline number, goes into effect on July 16, 2022. For 988 to work, ITC has implemented ten-digit local dialing, which means you need to dial the area code plus the telephone number when making a local call. This applies to all calls within your area code that are currently dialed with seven digits. If you forget and dial just seven digits, your call will still be completed at this time.

Also, please update all services, automatic dialing equipment, or other types of equipment programmed to complete calls with seven-digit local numbers.

If you have any questions, please call ITC at 1.800.417.8667 or visit www.itc-web.com. You can also visit the FCC website at <https://www.fcc.gov/suicide-prevention-hotline>.





Internet 911: **Printers in 2021**

By Michael Martinell, Network Broadband Technician

I have no idea how many printers I have owned since I got my first dot matrix for Christmas in the early 1990s. It was a slow, noisy machine that could be made to print at near laser printer quality with the right software. When I sent a print job, I had plenty of time to make a pot of coffee.

Back in those days, if you wanted to print something, you were forced to use the computer connected to the printer. Some simple printers today may still force you to print with a cable, but most printers now have a convenient wireless option. Once your computer is connected to the wireless router, such as ITC Blast Wi-Fi, you can print from anywhere you have wireless Internet coverage. In many cases, new printers allow you to print pictures and documents from your computer, tablet, and even your smartphone.

Another important consideration is whether you need an inkjet or laser printer. Inkjet printers are typically slower than laser printers and are more expensive to operate. The benefit is they are much cheaper to buy initially, and they usually excel at printing photos. The most significant expense with inkjet printers is having to purchase expensive ink cartridges. When I first used an inkjet printer, I would typically refill the cartridge from bottles of ink. Unfortunately, that doesn't work these days because, in many cases, printer manufacturers have mechanisms that prevent the refilled cartridge from working in the printer it came out of.

Some brands of inkjet printers make models with ink tanks where you can put a bottle of printer ink. This is cheaper when compared to a cartridge. They generally cost more to initially purchase than their cartridge equivalents but are cheaper to operate. I can say as an owner of one of these types of printers, I would personally never purchase a cartridge printer again.

The laser printer is typically good for documents, as they produce nice crisp text. For this reason, they are more appropriate in an office setting. The advantage is that they print very fast and are cheaper to operate than a traditional inkjet with an ink cartridge.

Laser printers also struggle with different paper types, such as labels, envelopes, and greeting cards. There are more expensive laser printers that handle these paper types and print nice photos, but they are on the expensive end of the printer lineup.

Whichever you decide you want, inkjet or laser, you can find models that perform just the basic printer function that my old dot matrix did. Many people want more out of their printer and tend to gravitate toward an all-in-one model that features a built-in photocopier, flatbed scanner, and sometimes a fax machine. Some models will even sort the output for stapling. I have not seen one that makes coffee yet, though.



ITC University: **The EBB**

By Holly Stormo, Marketing Communications Specialist

The FCC has approved ITC to be a provider for the Emergency Broadband Benefit program (EBB) to help households struggling to pay for Internet service during the pandemic. This new benefit provides a temporary discount on monthly Internet bills for qualifying low-income households. It will help families with challenges such as working from home, distance learning, telehealth services, or simply connecting digitally with loved ones.

If your household is eligible, you could receive up to a \$50/month discount on your Internet service and equipment rentals. The program is open now for applications and will continue until the fund runs out of money or six months after the Department of Health declares an end to the COVID-19 health emergency, whichever is sooner.

To find out if you qualify or to apply, go to the EBB website at [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](https://www.getemergencybroadband.org). If you need assistance with your application, contact the EBB support center at 1.833.511.0311.

Lifeline Funding Available

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the monthly cost of phone and Internet. Eligible customers will get up to \$9.25 toward their bill. You can use Lifeline either for phone or Internet, but not both. Only one Lifeline credit is available per household. Lifeline is the FCC's program to help make communications services more affordable for eligible customers.

Contact ITC for a Lifeline application or go to ITC's website at <https://www.itc-web.com/services-and-products/phone/lifeline-and-link/>. You can also go directly to the Lifeline National Verifier at <https://nationalverifier.servicenowservices.com/lifeline>. The following information will be needed to apply: First and last name, address, date of birth, and last four digits of your social security number (or tribal ID number). You may also need to provide one of these items: photo ID, prior year's tax return, social security card, or another document to prove your identity.

To be eligible for the Lifeline benefit, either you or someone in your household must participate in one of the programs below. The other option is to prove your income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

- Medicaid.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA).
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- Other Programs for Tribal Lands.

If your application is approved, you will need to contact ITC to receive the discount on your existing service.

If you believe you are eligible for Lifeline, call our office at 1.800.417.8667 for assistance.