

## **209 area code will have to use 1+10 dialing format for local calls starting Oct. 24**

### **Ten-digit dialing is coming to the 209.**

Technically, it is 11-digit dialing. **Beginning Oct. 24, a 1 followed by the area code will be required to place local phone calls.**

The 209 area includes San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Merced counties, and parts of Alameda, Alpine, El Dorado, Fresno, Madera and Sacramento counties.

### **Why the change?**

Last year, the Federal Communications Commission designated 988 as the new phone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

To ensure calls to 988 connect to the lifeline, areas that use seven-digit dialing and 988 as the first three digits in seven-digit numbers must use the new dialing format. The 209 area is one of the nine California area codes making the switch.

### **What's changing?**

**Calls placed within the 209 area code will require a 1 and the ten-digit number, including area code.** Calls made using only the last seven digits of a phone number will no longer be connected starting Oct. 24.

Most cell phones automatically enter the 1, and will not need to manually dial 1 when using a cell phone but the area code will need to be used, John C. Baker, a government liaison for the California Public Utilities Commission, said.

If numbers in the area are stored in a phone in a seven-digit format, the area code will be needed to be added to ensure the calls are connected.