Wireless companies claimed a spectrum crisis was imminent and would disrupt mobile service for Americans. Congress approved the plan. In response, the FCC created a plan to encourage TV stations to give up their airwaves for wireless companies to buy. The FCC implemented the first broadcast spectrum incentive auction.

Nearly 200 stations sold their channels to wireless bidders. Many of these will go off the air in 2017. TV stations were encouraged to sell their channels and go out of business. Now, nearly 1,000 TV stations that did not choose to participate must move to make room for wireless services.

More than 1,500 TV stations turned down $38 billion to continue serving local communities. Nearly 200 stations sold their channels to wireless bidders. Many of these will go off the air in 2017.

These moves will start in 2018 and continue through at least 2020. Nearly 200 stations sold their channels to wireless bidders. Many of these will go off the air in 2017.

A smaller number of viewers may lose their stations entirely or need to purchase a new antenna. More than 1,500 TV stations turned down $38 billion to continue serving local communities.

77 million viewers that rely on over-the-air TV using an antenna must take action to keep their local channels. Radio listeners may also be impacted if their station shares a tower with a TV station that is moving.

By law, nearly 1,000 TV stations must move frequencies to make room for wireless services. Find out what you need to know to keep access to your local TV channels.

TV Answers.org
An Initiative of the National Association of Broadcasters