

## Cellular Phones Are Handy For Vacation But Users Must Be Careful About Costs

(NAPSA)—The Internet is littered with vacation horror stories of cellular bills gone haywire. While on vacation in Mexico, a man downloaded a popular movie—in this case, “WALL-E”—over his wireless carrier and was billed a whopping \$62,000. And that’s without popcorn or drinks.

In another example, an American mother received a \$3,900 bill for her daughter’s international cell phone charges, far above what was expected, while the daughter studied abroad.

Instances like these are part of the reason the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has opened a query with the public on what it calls “bill shock,” or the surprise of an unexpectedly enormous cellular bill. However, one wireless company, Consumer Cellular, has taken the matter into its own hands by proactively notifying customers before the fact.

Consumer Cellular offers no-contract cellular plans, enabling customers to change their plans retroactively, as often as they need to. In addition, the company offers a complimentary “Usage Alert” program, whereby customers are notified by either text or e-mail when they reach certain milestones of use each month. This way, customers will be aware when they are approaching the end of their usage plan, enabling them to curtail or change their plan, saving customers from costly overage charges that often lead to sky-high bills.

“Among the most common consumer complaints about wireless providers are required long-term contracts and outrageous monthly bills due to overage fees,” said John Marick, CEO of Consumer Cellular. “Consumer Cellular has never had contracts, and now we are offering complimentary Usage Alerts to ensure our customers have a worry-free cell phone experience.”



**Consumer Cellular sends a “Usage Alert” message to notify customers when they are nearing monthly use limits.**

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Consumer Cellular has long supported providing affordable, simple wireless solutions to domestic travelers. AARP members receive discounts on accessories as well as a 5 percent discount on monthly service.

Best of all, for those who choose to travel domestically, including Alaska and Hawaii, a Consumer Cellular phone will work just about anywhere you go. Plus, you may upgrade your minutes while on the road without penalty. The company operates its service on one of the country’s largest networks, which provides coverage to 98 percent of the households in the United States.

Consumer Cellular does not have long-term contracts or early-termination fees. Affordable rates start at \$10 a month and are ideal for individuals who want the safety and convenience of cellular service without paying high rates for unused features. Additionally, a 30-day, risk-free satisfaction guarantee is available to all new customers.

### **Learn More**

You can learn more online at [www.consumercellular.com](http://www.consumercellular.com). To learn more about Usage Alerts through Consumer Cellular, visit [www.consumercellular.com/Info/UsageAlerts](http://www.consumercellular.com/Info/UsageAlerts).