

TRG-AUXCOMM: Auxiliary Communications Workshop

Description

This class is designed for those auxiliary emergency communicators and groups who volunteer to provide backup emergency radio communications support to public safety agencies. Typically, this includes amateur radio and Radio Emergency Associated Communications Team (REACT) communicators, but may include other volunteer emergency communicators.

Volunteer emergency communications operators/groups, using amateur radio, have been providing backup communications to public safety for nearly 100 years. Event planners, public safety officials, and emergency managers at all levels of government utilize their services. Often, amateur radio services have been used when other forms of communications have failed or have been disrupted. Today, nearly all the states/territories have incorporated some level of participation by amateur radio auxiliary communication operators into their TICPs and SCIPs.

This course focuses on auxiliary communications interoperability, the relationship between the COML and the volunteer, emergency operations center (EOC) etiquette, on-the-air etiquette, FCC rules and regulations, auxiliary communications training and planning, and emergency communications deployment. It is intended to supplement and standardize an operator's experience and knowledge of emergency amateur radio communications in a public safety context.

Prerequisites for attendance are:

- Completion of IS-100.b, IS-200.b, IS-700.a, and IS-800.b prior to the workshop¹
- An active FCC amateur radio license
- Past experience in auxiliary emergency communications
- A desire to work with COMLs in a NIMS/ICS environment

The SWIC will need to review/validate copies of the attendees' documentation of prerequisites prior to the course date. At least seven days prior to the course start date, the SWIC (or their designated representative) will submit an email to OEC/ICTAP verifying the students have met the prerequisites and are eligible to participate in the course.

¹ For any OEC/ICTAP COMU training course (COML, COMT, AUXCOMM) requestors are encouraged to notify the State Training Officer (STO) prior to its start to ensure the course is documented in state training files.

It is a 20 hour, two day course with facilitated lectures and student exercises. It can be scheduled during normal business days or weekends to accommodate participants' schedules. This course builds in time for interactive discussions and activities.

Because the content is NIMS-compliant, this offering is not modified for local circumstances. It is limited to 30 students. The course content includes:

- Introduction
- The Communications Unit and the EOC
- Auxiliary Emergency Communicator (AEC) Roles and Responsibilities
- Interoperable Communications
- Incident Communication
- Incident Radio Communications Plan (ICS Form 205)
- Incident Communications Center
- Team Management and Accountability
- Resources
- Intrastate and Interstate Radio Networks
- Final Exercise Exam

Deliverables

- Student Workbook
- Informational CD



Auxiliary communications workshops provide emergency amateur radio volunteers an overview of the NIMS ICS structure and a greater understanding of how they can support COMs.