

Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM)

Training Course

Unit 0: Introduction



AUXCOMM

"...volunteer organizations such as community emergency response teams and auxiliary communications volunteers (e.g., amateur radio operators; also called Hams) play key roles...Today, nearly all the States and territories have incorporated some level of participation by amateur radio auxiliary communication operators into their TICPs and SCIPs; this allows them to quickly integrate the operators into response efforts, which can strengthen communications and operations during incidents of any scale."

---National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) 2014



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Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM)

Auxiliary Communicators are one of many Technical Specialists that may be called upon to support the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

The Incident Commander has the final authority as to where the auxiliary communications (AUXCOMM) personnel will reside within their command.



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Terminal Learning Objective Enabling Learning Objectives

- TLO:** Discuss administrative requirements of the course.
- ELO A:** Introduce instructors, course coordinator, and volunteers.
- ELO B:** Present course goals and objectives.
- ELO C:** Explain course process and develop expectations.

Introduction

- Start/End Times
- Breaks
- Restrooms
- Emergency Exits
- Parking Instructions
- Lunch
- Turn off Radios, Cell Phones, Pagers, Computers
- Drinks/Food in Room
- Instructors
- Volunteers
- Building Access
- Smoking Areas
- Course Coordinator

Administration

- Sign-in sheet
- CASM NextGen database
- Completion certificates

OEC Personal Information Announcement

- Communication Assets Survey & Mapping Tool Next Generation (CASM NextGen)
 - Pinpoint student's home agency location
 - COML, COML TtT, COMT, COMT TtT, and AuxComm Trainees: Student's name, organization, contact information
 - Only shared with State representatives (SWIC)



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OEC Personal Information Announcement (Cont'd)

- CASM NextGen
 - System requires username and password
 - SWIC only allowed to view their State data and/or bordering States
 - Goal is to graphically map Auxiliary Communicator locations
 - Students may opt out



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Course Goal

The goal of this 20 hour course is to provide instruction to AUXCOMM volunteers so that their individual and organizational efforts/expertise are appropriately integrated into the public safety/service communications support environment in the Auxiliary Communicator role:

- Provide alternate communications in cases where local services have failed
- At emergency incidents/planned events/training exercises



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Course Goal (Cont'd)

- Within the emergency management structure (Emergency Operations Center (EOCs), etc.)
- Supporting communications with other organizations (Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc.)

Course Purpose

- Enable an AUXCOMM volunteer to fill the role of an Auxiliary Communicator
- Educate the Auxiliary Communicator on how to work in a NIMS/ICS environment under the direction of the Communications Unit Leader (COML) or at an EOC under the direction of the EMA Director or designee
- Standardize basic AUXCOMM procedures that can be used either within a state or between states
- Educate volunteers on how to work closely with the public safety community so that communications between the two will be interoperable

Objectives

- Identify the functions, duties, and responsibilities of the Auxiliary Communications Manager (ACM) and Auxiliary Communicators
- Arrive at an incident appropriately dressed, equipped, ready to gather information to assess the assignment, and begin initial planning
- Plan, organize, staff, direct, control, and demobilize the AUXCOMM personnel in a safe and effective manner

Objectives (Cont'd)

- Coordinate with incident sections, communications personnel, and other agencies to accomplish incident objectives
- Design, order, and ensure the installation, operation, and maintenance of all auxiliary communications systems
- Maintain accountability of assigned communications equipment



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Unit 0: Summary

- 1) Described the administrative requirements of the course.
- 2) Introduced instructors, course coordinator, and volunteers.
- 3) Presented course goals and objectives.
- 4) Explained course process and developed expectations.



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