

Auxiliary Communications Course

Description:

This offering is designed for auxiliary emergency communicators and groups who typically volunteer to provide backup emergency radio communications support to public safety and emergency response professionals and their agencies. Typically this would include Amateur Radio and Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams (REACT) communicators, but may include other volunteer emergency communicators. The request for, and conduct of, this offering will be under the auspices of the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC). Volunteer emergency communications operators/groups, using Amateur Radio, have been providing backup communications to public safety for over 100 years. They are used by event planners, public safety officials, and emergency managers at all levels of government. Often, Amateur Radio services have been used reliably when other forms of communications have failed or have been disrupted. Today nearly all states/territories have incorporated some level of participation by Amateur Radio auxiliary communication operators into their SCIPs.

The course focuses on auxiliary communications interoperability, the relationship between the COML and the volunteer, emergency operation center etiquette, on-the-air etiquette, FCC Rules and Regulations, auxiliary communications training and planning, certification and accreditation, 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:

Required:

1. IS-100.b, *Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS), ICS-100*;
2. IS-200.b, *Incident Command System (ICS) for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents*;
3. IS-700.a, *National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction*;
4. IS-800.b, *National Response Framework (NRF), An Introduction*. (copies of certificates will be requested at the start of the class);
5. General Class FCC license or above (copy of the license will be requested at the start of the class);
6. Past experience in auxiliary emergency communications; and
7. A desire to learn how to work with COMLs in a NIMS/ICS environment.

Course Content:

- Introduction
- The Communications Unit and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- AEC Roles and Responsibilities
- Interoperable Communications

- Incident Communication
- Incident Radio Communications Plan
- Incident Communications Center
- Team management and accountability
 - Resources
 - Intrastate and interstate radio networks
 - Final exercise exam

Course Length: 2 days (20 hrs)

This is an intensive course with facilitated lecture and student exercises. It can be scheduled over a weekend to accommodate attendees' regular work schedules. This course includes time for interactive discussions and exercises. Because the content is NIMS-compliant, this offering is not modified for local circumstances.

Maximum number of Students: 30.

Deliverables:

- Class and presentation materials;
- Written high-level project plan; and
- Outline(s) of project plan annexes.