



**Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM)
March 17-18, 2018
Hennepin County Sheriff's Office
Emergency Communications Facility
1245 Shenandoah Lane North
Plymouth, MN 55447**

The Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) course trains amateur radio operators to serve as auxiliary communicators during all-hazards emergency operations or planned events. Since 2011, the Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications (DHS OEC) has conducted AUXCOMM courses across the nation and trained more than 2,000 students in this course.

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 Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICPs) and Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans (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.

This course is two days long (10 hours each day) and is limited to 30 students.

Class Prerequisites

To attend this course, applicants must have the following prerequisites:

- An active FCC amateur radio license
- Past experience in auxiliary emergency communications
- A desire to work with COMLs in a NIMS/ICS environment

- An affiliation with a public safety agency
- Completion of the following **FEMA** training courses:
 - IS-100.b, Introduction to the ICS
 - IS-200.b, ICS for Single Resources and Initial Incidents
 - IS-700.a, National Incident Management System (NIMS), an Introduction
 - IS-800.b, National Response Framework (NRF), an Introduction

Course Dates and Location

This AUXCOMM course is offered 17-18 March 2018 at the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Emergency Communications Facility in Plymouth, Minnesota. There is no charge for this training, and course materials will be provided by DHS/OEC. All travel/per diem costs are the responsibility of the individual student.

Registration

Applicants should submit a copy of their current FCC amateur license with scanned copies of all prerequisite Certificates of Completions, for IS prerequisite courses, to **John Peterson** at **COMU@hq.dhs.gov**.

Copies of prerequisite documentation which verify applicants have met the prerequisites and are eligible to participate in the course must be submitted and reviewed at two weeks prior to the course start date.

Registration is not complete until all documentation has been received and verified. Admittance is limited to the first 30 qualified applicants. The Office of Emergency Communications will notify applicants that they are registered as soon as their prerequisites are received and verified as complete.