



## **Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM)**

**13 – 15 October 2023**

**Pennsylvania State Police Northeast Training Center  
2001 South Valley Parkway, Wilkes Barre, PA 18706**

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 Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency Emergency Communications Division (CISA ECD) has conducted AUXCOMM courses across the nation and trained more than 3,900 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 and a half days long (4 hours Friday 5PM to 9PM, 8 hours each day on Saturday and Sunday 9AM to 5PM with a break for lunch) 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 COMs in a NIMS/ICS environment
- An affiliation with a public safety agency
  
- Completion of the following **FEMA** training courses:
  - IS-100, Introduction to the ICS
  - IS-200, ICS for Single Resources and Initial Incidents
  - IS-700, National Incident Management System (NIMS), an Introduction
  - IS-800, National Response Framework (NRF), an Introduction

### **Course Dates and Location**

This AUXCOMM course is offered 13-15 October 2023 at the Pennsylvania State Police Northeast Training Center at 2001 South Valley Parkway in Wilkes-Barre, PA. There is no charge for this training, and course materials will be provided by CISA ECD. 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 Holly Caudill at [hcaudill@pa.gov](mailto:hcaudill@pa.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 least ten (10) days prior to the course start date.

Registration is not complete until all documentation has been received and verified by Holly Caudill. Admittance is limited to 30 qualified applicants. Holly Caudill will notify applicants when they are registered.