



## **Communications Unit Leader Training**

The All-Hazards Communications Unit Leader (COML) course trains emergency responders to serve as radio communications unit leaders during all-hazards emergency operations. COML responsibilities include developing plans to effectively use incident communications equipment and facilities, managing distribution of communications equipment to incident personnel, and coordinating the installation and testing of communications equipment. Since 2008 the Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications (DHS OEC) has conducted COML courses across the nation and trained more than 2,800 public safety responders in this course.

### **Description**

This course is designed for all Federal, State/Territory, tribal, regional, and local emergency response professionals and support personnel who have an emergency communications background. It is designed to familiarize them with the role and responsibilities of a COML under the National Incident Management System Incident Command System (NIMS ICS). OEC and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Emergency Management Institute have integrated the COML curriculum to jointly offer a standardized All Hazards COML course.

This course provides DHS-approved and NIMS-compliant instruction with a goal of ensuring Federal agencies and State/Territory organizations have trained personnel capable of coordinating on-scene emergency communications during a multi-jurisdictional response or a planned event. OEC/ICTAP instructors are approved by DHS and have extensive experience both as emergency responders and as COMLs. The course is presented with facilitated lecture, hands-on activities, and extensive interactive discussions. Instructors work through the discussions and activities to explain the processes used to achieve communication operability, interoperability, and how to incorporate additional communications solutions.

This course is three days long and is limited to 30 students.

### **Class Prerequisites**

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

- A public safety communications background with exposure to field operations; this experience should be validated by the authority who supervises the applicant.
- Basic knowledge of local communications and communications systems; frequencies and spectrum; technologies; local topography; system site locations including knowledge of state, regional, and local communication plans; and communications and resource contacts.

- Completion of the following **FEMA** training courses:
  - IS-100.b, Introduction to the ICS
  - IS-200.b, ICS for Single Resources and Initial Incidents
  - ICS-300, Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents
  - IS-700.a, National Incident Management System (NIMS), an Introduction
  - IS-800.b, National Response Framework (NRF), an Introduction

In addition, ICS-400, Advanced ICS, Command and General Staff-Complex Incidents, is recommended.

### **Course Dates and Location**

This COML course is offered January 15-17, 2019 at the Joint Force Headquarters/Nebraska Emergency Management Agency at 2433 NW 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE. 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's agency.

### **Registration**

Students must obtain a FEMA Student Identification (SID) number from the Center for Domestic Preparedness if they do not already have one. To register for a SID, applicants should go to <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>. On the right of the screen, clicking on "Need a FEMA SID" allows an applicant to register. Applicants will receive the SID via email.

Applicants should submit the signed copy of the General Admissions Application (FEMA Form 119-25-1) with scanned copies of all prerequisite Certificates of Completions, for IS/ICS prerequisite courses, to [dave.reisen@nebraska.gov](mailto:dave.reisen@nebraska.gov).

The FEMA Form 119-25-1 can be downloaded from:

[http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/ff\\_119\\_25\\_1\\_75\\_5.pdf](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/ff_119_25_1_75_5.pdf) The only required signatures on this form are the student's (below paragraph 21d.) and their supervisor's (in block 22a.) before submitting it to the above e-mail address. Any additional questions should be directed to Dave Reisen at the email address noted above.

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. Admittance is limited to the first 30 qualified applicants. Dave Reisen will notify applicants they are registered as soon as their prerequisites are verified but no later than ten business (10) days prior to the start of the course.