

# ***The Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications Returns to Provide AUXCOMM Training in Conjunction with Hamvention® 2018***

The Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) will be on hand at Hamvention® 2018 to conduct its nationally recognized NIMS/ICS compliant Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) course. To date, over 2,000 emergency communicators have taken this course. The purpose of this course is to train highly qualified amateur radio operators so they may assist their local, county and state governments with emergency backup communications if requested. This course will be held at the Beaver Creek Township Fire Department, from 15-17 May 2018, as part of Hamvention® 2018.

The OEC workshop is designed for auxiliary emergency communicators who volunteer to provide backup emergency radio communications support to public safety and emergency response professionals and their agencies. Typically this includes amateur radio communicators from groups such as MARS, ARES, RACES, SATERN, etc. Volunteer emergency communications operators/groups have been providing back-up emergency communications to the public safety community for over a century. They are routinely used by event planners and emergency managers at all levels of government. Frequently, the Public Safety community relies on the amateur radio service when they need additional communications support for situations like sporting events, festivals and especially when telecommunications have collapsed or have been severely disrupted during a natural or manmade disaster. This was more than evident during the three hurricanes this past summer. A significant number of States/territories, regions, county and local governments have already incorporated some level of participation by amateur radio operators into their communications interoperability plans.

***Registration for this course is now open:*** Students requesting to attend the DHS AuxComm Course (TRG-AUXCOMM) must meet all prerequisites and provide electronic/scanned images of the required documents prior to the 1 May 2018 deadline. These scanned documents should be emailed to [COMU@HQ.DHS.GOV](mailto:COMU@HQ.DHS.GOV) where they will be reviewed for accuracy. A letter of acceptance will be sent to the applicant if the submitted prerequisites have met the requirements.

Except for the FCC license, the prerequisites for this course can only be taken, or updated, on the FEMA/EMI training website located at <https://training.fema.gov/is>. The specific prerequisites include:

- A copy of your current signed valid FCC amateur radio license
- Current IS-100.b certificate (taken since 2013)
- Current IS-200.b certificate (taken since 2013)
- Current IS-700.a certificate (taken since 2013)
- Current IS-800b. certificate (taken since 2013)

**Only students whose registration is approved prior to the deadline will be accepted into this class. The course is limited to 30 students, and registration will**

**close when that number of qualified students has been reached. OEC will notify Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWIC) in those States whose attendees successfully complete this training.**

**AUXCOMMs 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

This is the *extended three day* version of this course with facilitated lectures and intense student exercises. This course provides time for interactive discussions and exercises. Specific questions regarding this course should be sent to: [john.peterson@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:john.peterson@hq.dhs.gov)

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