

## AUXILIARY COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM INFO SHEET



Auxiliary Communications, or 'AUXCOMM', refers to organizations and personnel which provide various types of emergency communications support to emergency management, public safety, and other government agencies. AUXCOMM services are typically voluntary, and are commonly provided by amateur radio communicators, but may also include other volunteer organizations which have established relationships with the government organizations they support.

- Auxcomm is the de facto certification level required by FEMA and other federal and state emergency management agencies.
- The AUXCOMM program trains amateur radio personnel to have the tools to work in the ICS structure and fill the position of AuxComm Manager to handle the AuxComm operation under supervision of the COML.
- Not all COMLs have the intimate knowledge of ham radio. A COML will almost certainly want to designate an Auxcomm manager to organize and supervise ham radio volunteers.
- Auxcomm-certified volunteers are readily recognized at incidents/events because of the credentialing they receive upon completion of training and certification.
- Generally volunteers without auxcomm certification will be considered technical specialists (THSP).

The Nevada Division of Emergency Management has established an Auxcomm training and certification program and is actively involved in developing the Auxcomm system statewide. We are here to assist local jurisdictions in creating their own programs.

The requirements for certification as an auxcomm volunteer include:

- An amateur radio license
- Completion of an Auxcomm class
- Sponsorship of a Local Jurisdiction.
- Completion of the latest version of IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, and IS-800
- Past experience in auxiliary emergency communications
- A desire to work with COML's in the NIMS/ICS environment
- Local jurisdictions are free to develop their own additional requirements

Auxcomm also has a PTB (position task book) that needs to be completed and signed off and then approved by the state SWIC just like a COML or any other COMU position. The Nevada DEM has a designated panel for that purpose.

The NV DEM Auxcomm group also develops and presents quarterly training sessions. These are designed to offer continued training and facilitate task book completion. These sessions are offered in varying areas of the state in order to accommodate the largest number of participants.

