

EmComm Training to Provide Incident Communication Support - Krissy, KI7GJJ

If you are interested in providing radio communications support for Incidents, you will need to prepare by taking some classes. These classes are all offered on-line and prepare you to work with the organization that is deployed for federal emergencies. Note that an Incident can be a planned event (Parade, Olympics) or an Emergency (Fire, Flood). The four classes you would need to take are:

- ICS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System (2 hr class)
- ICS-200 Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response (4 hr class)
- ICS-700 An Introduction to the National Incident Management System (3.5 hr class)
- ICS-800 National Response Framework, An Introduction (3 hr class)

While these courses are not specific to Amateur Radio communications, they are needed to understand the terminology, the organizational structure, and the processes that would be deployed for an Incident. Volunteer organizations including Amateur Radio operators play a key role in these situations, but there must be an understanding of the framework that is established to be effective and to avoid doing more harm than good.

To take the classes, apply for a FEMA Student ID (SID). If you do not have a SID, register for one here: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>. The FEMA SID will serve as your unique identifier and be used to maintain the record of FEMA training you attended. Ensure you record your SID for future reference!

The courses are offered as Independent Study. You take the courses on-line and take an exam – all from the comfort of your own computer! You can print out the course materials for reference. To take an independent study class go to <https://training.fema.gov/is/>, then click on “IS Course List”. Scroll through the list of courses until you find your desired course (IS-100.c, IS-200.c, IS-700.b, or IS-800.d) and click on the desired course. Click on “Interactive Web Based Course” and begin the class!

Once you’ve completed the course work, take the final exam for each class by clicking on “Take Final Exam”. After completing the exam, you will then get an email confirming your successful completion of the course.

After successful completion of the final exam for each of the 4 courses, you may want to sign up for an AuxCom class. This is an in-person class and is more specific to Ham Radio. In this class, you will be introduced to the forms that an amateur radio operator would use if deployed to an Incident. You can register for an AuxCom class through the MCECG (Maricopa County Emergency Communications Group) website; you must create an MCECG logon to register. The class is not offered often. Once they get enough people signed-up, the class will be scheduled.

Some common Forms used at an Incident are

- ICS 205 (Radio Communications Plan)
- ICS 213 (General Message)
- ICS 214 (Activity Log)
- ICS 217A (Communications resource availability Worksheet)

Copies of these forms and all other ICS forms can be found at

<https://training.fema.gov/icsresource/icsforms.aspx>.

