



COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN (NQS)

TYPE	TYPE 1	TYPE 2
DESCRIPTION	<p>Same as Type 2, PLUS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gathers specifications and tests existing land mobile radio (LMR) functionality in incident area, including multiple systems for multiple jurisdictions 2. Gives status of existing system, protocols, and procedures in state or regional interoperable communications plan and Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) 3. Drafts initial incident communications plan in conjunction with Communications Unit Leader (COML) 4. Designs and engineers backhaul of disparate jurisdictional communications systems to point of convergence at interoperable communications switch or devices 5. Provides redundant LMR, voice, and data communications between all incident facilities 6. Deploys multiple staging areas for portable and mobile communications devices, to serve a wide incident area and a large number of operational personnel 	<p>Same as Type 3, PLUS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gathers specifications and tests existing LMR functionality in incident area 2. Assesses, through surveys and live testing, whether existing systems are fully operational and have coverage and capacity to meet incident objectives 3. Disseminates information on frequencies, platforms, talk groups, call signs, encryption, and code plugs to dispatched personnel 4. Identifies existing interoperability options and installs, configures, and programs interoperable communications devices to establish common operational and command channels, as the Incident Commander (IC) or COML requests 5. Stabilizes and secures existing LMR facilities serving the incident, including provision of reliable power supply, and approves minor repairs to equipment and antennas 6. Establishes voice and data communications between all incident facilities, including command center, staging, bases, air operations, and camps 7. Orders communications lines, wireless backhaul, or repeater systems 8. Deploys staging area for portable and mobile communications devices, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Logistics and procedures from inventory control b. Program and configuration of equipment c. Quality assurance and voice checks d. Basic preventive maintenance and basic part repairs e. Quick operational training f. Battery swap-out and replacement 9. Specifies, orders, and installs all other communications services, including commercial cellular devices, land lines, tip lines, wired and wireless local area networks, internet and enterprise server connection, video and television services, and other communications services as requested through incident command
CATEGORY	CRITERIA	CRITERIA
EDUCATION	Same as Type 2	Training in radio engineering, information systems, or similar field OR post-secondary technical education in communications or wireless equipment installation or similar field, including equivalent training received through military service
NOTES: Not Specified		

Superseded

TYPE	TYPE 1	TYPE 2
TRAINING	Same as Type 2, PLUS: Training specializing in multiple standards or platforms of LMR equipment, wireless electronics, or network switching equipment	Same as Type 3, PLUS: Training specializing in one standard or platform of LMR equipment, wireless electronics, or network switching equipment
	NOTES: Not Specified	
EXPERIENCE	Same as Type 2, PLUS: 1. Successful completion of the National Qualification System (NQS) Position Task Book (PTB) for the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Type 1 Communications Technician, or equivalent Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) documentation 2. Technical experience with LMR, operational mission-critical first responder communications, or communications systems management, including accountability for emergency communications policies and procedures	Same as Type 3, PLUS: 1. Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 2 Communications Technician, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Technical experience with LMR, operational mission-critical first responder communications, or communications systems
	NOTES: Not Specified	
PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3
	NOTES: Not Specified	
CURRENCY	Same as Type 2	Functions in this position during an operational incident, exercise, drill, or simulation at least once every three years
	NOTES: Not Specified	
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS	Not Specified	Not Specified
	NOTES: Not Specified	

Superseded

TYPE	TYPE 3	NO TYPE 4
DESCRIPTION	The Communications Technician (COMT): 1. Installs and tests communications equipment 2. Configures equipment to the needs of the incident 3. Distributes communications equipment to incident personnel 4. Maintains and repairs communications equipment 5. Identifies and specifies the need for additional infrastructure to support communications	Not Applicable
CATEGORY	CRITERIA	CRITERIA
EDUCATION	Not Specified NOTES: Not Specified	Not Applicable
TRAINING	Completion of the following: 1. IS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS-100 2. IS-700: National Incident Management System, An Introduction NOTES: Not Specified	Not Applicable
EXPERIENCE	1. Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 3 Communications Technician, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Experience with LMR, operational mission-critical first responder communications, or communications systems NOTES: Not Specified	Not Applicable
PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS	Performs duties under moderate circumstances characterized by working consecutive 12-hour days under physical and emotional stress for sustained periods NOTES: Not Specified	Not Applicable
CURRENCY	Functions in this position during an operational incident, exercise, drill, or simulation at least once every five years NOTES: Not Specified	Not Applicable
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS	Not Specified NOTES: Not Specified	Not Applicable

Superseded

ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS OR DESIGNATIONS

1. (X) Can be ordered as an individual asset
2. () Can be ordered in conjunction with a NIMS typed team
3. () Can be ordered in conjunction with a NIMS typed unit
4. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as security, lodging, transportation, and meals, prior to deployment
5. This position typically works 12 hours per shift, is self-sustainable for 72 hours, and is deployable for up to 14 days
6. Requestor may specify any additional qualifications necessary based on incident complexity and needs

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, National Qualification System (NQS) Position Task Book for Communications Technician, latest edition adopted
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Communications Unit Leader
3. FEMA, NIMS 509: Incident Commander
4. FEMA, National Incident Management System (NIMS), October 2017
5. FEMA, NIMS Guideline for the NQS, November 2017
6. FEMA, National Response Framework, June 2016

NOTES

Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated category.

Superseded