

**COMMUNICATIONS UNIT LEADER (NQS)**

<b>RESOURCE CATEGORY</b>	Communications
<b>RESOURCE KIND</b>	Not Specified
<b>OVERALL FUNCTION</b>	
<b>COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. This position can be ordered as a single resource.</li><li>2. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as security, lodging, transportation, and meals, prior to deployment</li><li>3. This position typically works 12 hours per shift, is self-sustainable for 72 hours, and is deployable for up to 14 days</li><li>4. Requestor may specify any additional qualifications necessary based on incident complexity and needs</li></ol>

Each type of resource builds on the qualifications of the type below it. For example, Type 1 qualifications include the qualifications in Type 2, plus an increase in capability. Type 1 is the highest qualification level.

Superseded

## Position Qualification for Operational Communications Communications

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	NOTES
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>Same as Type 2, PLUS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rapidly assesses whether the area of operations comprises multiple geographic areas and whether they use the same communications policies and systems</li> <li>2. Establishes physical interoperability connections between communications systems over wide areas</li> <li>3. Establishes a communications plan among command center, staging, base, camp, and other operational sites</li> <li>4. Establishes capacity of available radio frequencies and channels for incident response by multiple first responder disciplines, multiple jurisdictions, and numerous operational personnel</li> <li>5. Supervises Communications Unit staff and is accountable for their safety and adherence to Incident Command System (ICS) procedures</li> </ol>	<p>Same as Type 3, PLUS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provides rapid assessment of communications options, taking into consideration incident objectives, known status of existing communications systems and infrastructure, pre-positioned plans within the jurisdiction's Interoperability Communications Plan, and rapidly available options for communications equipment and supplies</li> <li>2. Reports status and recommendations within ICS procedures</li> <li>3. Implements voice protocols, policies, and procedures necessary to make use of existing communications systems serving the incident area</li> <li>4. Establishes logistics for extended use of communications equipment in challenging environments, including exchange and resupply of radios, phones, and computers for multiple shift changes</li> <li>5. Establishes communications staging area</li> <li>6. Plans for restoring and augmenting communications services, taking into account backup plans, reliability, and resiliency, based on situational awareness of incident environment</li> </ol>	<p>The Communications Unit Leader (COML):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develops plans for the effective use of incident communications equipment and facilities, including the Incident Radio Communications Plan</li> <li>2. Oversees installation and testing of communications equipment</li> <li>3. Supervises the Incident Communications Center Manager and Communications Technicians (COMT)</li> <li>4. Distributes communications equipment to incident personnel</li> <li>5. Maintains and repairs communications equipment, including data management infrastructure</li> <li>6. Plans, organizes staff, manages, and demobilizes the Communications Unit in a safe and effective manner to meet incident needs</li> <li>7. Coordinates with the incident sections, appropriate communications personnel, and other agencies to assist in accomplishing the overall incident objectives</li> <li>8. Designs, orders, and ensures the installation and maintenance of all communications systems</li> <li>9. Maintains accountability of assigned communications equipment</li> <li>10. Establishes or transitions into a unit under the Logistics Section</li> <li>11. Configures unit with personnel to support operations</li> </ol>	Not Specified
<b>EDUCATION</b>	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified

Superseded

Position Qualification for Operational Communications  
Communications

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	NOTES
<b>TRAINING</b>	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3, PLUS: ICS-400: Advanced Incident Command System for Command and General Staff - Complex Incidents	Completion of the following: 1. IS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS-100 2. IS-700: National Incident Management System, An Introduction 3. IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction 4. IS-200: Incident Command System for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents 5. G0191: ICS/EOC Interface 6. ICS-300: Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents 7. E/L 0969: Communications Unit Leader, or equivalent	Identified equivalent trainings should meet or exceed course learning objectives.
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>	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 Unit Leader, or equivalent Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) documentation 2. Experience in managing operational mission-critical first responder communications or communications systems, including accountability for emergency communications policies and procedures 3. Satisfactory performance during an ICS assignment as a chief, director, supervisor, or leader 4. Satisfactory performance as a NIMS Type 2 Communications Unit Leader	Same as Type 3, PLUS: 1. Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 2 Communications Unit Leader, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Satisfactory performance as a NIMS Type 3 Communications Unit Leader	1. Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 3 Communications Unit Leader, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Satisfactory performance as a COMT 3. Satisfactory performance as an Incident Communications Center Manager	Not Specified
<b>PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS</b>	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3	Performs duties under light circumstances characterized by working consecutive 12-hour days under physical and emotional stress for sustained periods	Not Specified
<b>CURRENCY</b>	Functions in this position during an operational incident, exercise, drill, or simulation at least once every three years	Same as Type 3	Functions in this position during an operational incident, exercise, drill, or simulation at least once every five years	Not Specified

Superseded



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COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	NOTES
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3	Federal Communications Commission (FCC): General Radiotelephone Operator License (PG)	Not Specified

Superseded



## Position Qualification for Operational Communications Communications

### NOTES

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

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### REFERENCES

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

Superseded