



Resource Typing Definition for the National Qualification System  
Emergency Management

**COMMUNICATIONS UNIT LEADER**

<b>RESOURCE CATEGORY</b>	Emergency Management
<b>RESOURCE KIND</b>	Personnel
<b>OVERALL FUNCTION</b>	The Communications Unit Leader (COML) designs, orders, manages, and ensures the installation and maintenance of all communications systems
<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 this position, such as security, lodging, transportation, and meals, prior to deployment</li> <li>3. The position typically works 12 hours per shift, is self-sustainable for 72 hours, and is deployable 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.

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	TYPE 4	NOTES
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Same as Type 2, PLUS: <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> </ol>	Same as Type 3, PLUS: <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> </ol>	The COML: <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> </ol>	Not Applicable	Not Specified



COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	TYPE 4	NOTES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> </ul>		



COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	TYPE 4	NOTES
<b>EDUCATION</b>	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Applicable	Not Specified
<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	Not Applicable	Identified equivalent trainings should meet or exceed course learning objectives.



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COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	TYPE 4	NOTES
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>	<p>Same as Type 2, PLUS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>Experience in managing operational mission-critical first responder communications or communications systems, including accountability for emergency communications policies and procedures</li> <li>Satisfactory performance during an ICS assignment as a chief, director, supervisor, or leader</li> <li>Satisfactory performance as a NIMS Type 2 Communications Unit Leader</li> </ol>	<p>Same as Type 3, PLUS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 2 Communications Unit Leader, or equivalent AHJ documentation</li> <li>Satisfactory performance as a NIMS Type 3 Communications Unit Leader</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 3 Communications Unit Leader, or equivalent AHJ documentation</li> <li>Satisfactory performance as a COMT</li> <li>Satisfactory performance as an Incident Communications Center Manager</li> </ol>	Not Applicable	Not Specified
<b>PHYSICAL / MEDICAL / FITNESS</b>	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3	Performs duties under moderate circumstances characterized by working consecutive 12-hour days under physical and emotional stress for sustained periods	Not Applicable	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 Applicable	Not Specified



COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	TYPE 4	NOTES
<b>PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS</b>	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3	Federal Communications Commission (FCC): General Radiotelephone Operator License (PG)	Not Applicable	Not Specified



## COMMENTS

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Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated component and capability.

## REFERENCES

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1. FEMA, NIMS 509: Communications Technician
2. FEMA, Position Task Book for Communications Unit Leader
3. FEMA, National Qualification System Guide
4. FEMA, National Incident Management System (NIMS), pending publication
5. FEMA, National Response Framework, June 2016
6. FEMA, Emergency Responder Field Operations Guide (ER-FOG), October 2010
7. National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), National Incident Management System Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide, PMS 310-1, Physical Fitness Levels, October 2016