



# S-358: Communications Unit Leader (2008)

## Course Plan

### Course Details

<b>Description:</b>	This course is designed to provide skills and knowledge needed to perform in the role of Communications Unit Leader (COML). Topics include mobilization, establishing the communications unit, communications system design and ordering, communications system installation and maintenance, communications equipment assignment and accountability, incident communications center, internal and external coordination, demobilization, and current communications issues and technology.
<b>Designed For:</b>	Personnel desiring to be qualified as Communications Unit Leader (COML).
<b>Authority:</b>	National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Qualified as Incident Communications Technician (COMT), and as Incident Communications Center Manager (INCM).
<b>Standard:</b>	N/A
<b>Hours:</b>	22 hours
<b>Maximum Class Size:</b>	40 (30 Recommended by NWCG)
<b>Instructor Level:</b>	Primary instructor
<b>Instructor/Student Ratio:</b>	1 primary instructor per 40 students (NWCG Recommends 1:6)
<b>Restrictions:</b>	Limited to Instructor-Led Delivery only.
<b>SFT Designation:</b>	FSTEP

## **Required Resources**

### **Instructor Resources**

To teach this course, instructors need:

- S-358 Instructor Guide
- S-358 CD-ROM Course Materials
- S-358 Student Workbook

These materials are available to order through the National Fire Equipment System (NFES).

### **Student Resources**

To participate in this course, students need:

- S-358 Student Workbook

### **Facilities, Equipment, and Personnel**

The following facilities, equipment, or personnel are required to deliver this course:

#### **Facilities**

- Standard classroom equipped for 24 students
- Whiteboards or easel pads with appropriate writing implements
- Projector/TV with appropriate laptop connections
- Wifi/Internet access

**Time Table**

Segment			Unit Total
Unit 0: Introduction			1.0
Unit 1: Mobilization			2.0
Unit 2: Establishing the Communications Unit			2.0
Unit 3: Communications System Design and Ordering			8.0
Unit 4: Communications Systems Installation and Maintenance			1.0
Unit 5: Communications Equipment Assignment and Accountability			1.0
Unit 6: Incident Communications Center			1.0
Unit 7: Internal and External Coordination			1.0
Unit 8: Demobilization			1.0
Unit 9: Current Communications Issues and Technology (optional)			1.0
Unit 10: Final Scenario			3.0
<b>Course Totals</b>			<b>22.0</b>

**Time Table Key**

1. The Time Table documents the amount of time required to deliver the content included in the course plan.
2. Time is documented using the quarter system: 15 min. = .25 / 30 min. = .50 / 45 min. = .75 / 60 min. = 1.0.
3. The Course Totals do not reflect time for lunch (1 hour) or breaks (10 minutes per each 50 minutes of instruction or assessment). It is the instructor's responsibility to add this time based on the course delivery schedule.
4. Application (activities, skills exercises, and formative testing) time will vary depending on the number of students enrolled and the acquired structure selected for training. The Application time documented is based on the maximum class size identified in the Course Details section.
5. Summative Assessments are determined and scheduled by the authority having jurisdiction. These are not the written or psychomotor State Fire Training certification exams. These are in-class assessments to evaluate student progress and calculate course grades.

## Objectives

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1. Identify the functions of the communications unit and the duties and responsibilities of the Communications Unit Leader.
2. Arrive at the incident properly equipped, gather information to assess the assignment, and begin initial planning activities of a Communications Unit Leader.
3. Plan, staff, manage, and demobilize the communications unit in a safe and effective manner to meet the needs of the incident.
4. Coordinate with incident sections, appropriate communications, and other agencies and personnel to assist in accomplishing the overall incident objectives.
5. Design, order, and ensure the installation and maintenance of all communications systems to support the incident.
6. Maintain accountability of assigned communications equipment.