COM-05 ICS-205 Communications Plan

Producing a field-usable ICS-205 so your MAG can talk to, and be understood by, responding emergency services.

BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT

The ICS-205 Communications Plan is the standard NIMS/ICS form that documents every radio channel, frequency, and assignment in use during an incident. A completed ICS-205 lets a MAG hand a single sheet of paper to a fire department, sheriff's office, or SAR team and immediately establish interoperable communications, instead of explaining the group's radio setup from scratch under pressure.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The first time responding agencies see your ICS-205 should not be the first time you've filled one out.

Emergency services run on ICS and NIMS forms. A MAG that shows up to a mutual-aid or evacuation-support role with a completed, correctly formatted ICS-205 is immediately legible to incident command; one that doesn't is a liability the IC now has to manage. This course teaches the form field by field and produces a real, usable plan for the student's own MAG.

► **A comms plan responders can't read in ten seconds is a comms plan they won't use.**

ICS-205 KEY FIELDS

Channel Name / Function	Descriptive net name — for example, "MAG Command Net."
Assignment	Who uses this channel: command, tactical, logistics, or air-to-ground.
RX / TX Frequency & Tone	Full frequency pair and any tone or offset needed to access it.
Mode	Analog or digital, encryption if any, and system — simplex or repeater.
Remarks	Special instructions: restricted use, backup only, licensing notes.

COURSE LESSONS

1	**Why ICS-205 Matters for a MAG** Interoperability scenario: a MAG supporting a wildfire evacuation alongside county resources with no shared communications plan.
2	**Anatomy of the Form** Field-by-field walkthrough of the ICS-205: incident name, operational period, channel/function, assignment, RX/TX frequency, tone, mode, remarks.
3	**Populating Your MAG's Channels** Mapping the MAG's actual radios, frequencies, and nets onto the form correctly, including licensing considerations across GMRS, FRS, and Amateur Radio.
4	**Coordinating with Responding Agencies** How to present an ICS-205 to an incident commander, what agencies expect to see, and the common mistakes that make a plan unusable.
5	**Maintaining and Updating the Plan** Keeping the ICS-205 current as equipment and personnel change. Connects to COM-02 net procedures and PLN-04 PREP-CON.

DOCTRINAL SOURCES

FEMA ICS-205	**Incident Radio Communications Plan**	Primary source — the official NIMS/ICS form and instructions this course teaches
NIFOG	**National Interoperability Field Operations Guide**	Frequency and interoperability channel reference used when populating a real plan
FEMA ICS Forms Booklet	**ICS Forms & Instructions**	Field-by-field completion guidance for the ICS-205 and related planning forms