

Preconference Course Event Information

March 15-16, 2025

Zero to COML (25 seat max)

8am- 5pm both days – 16-hour class

Location: TBD

Instructors: Rodney Newton, Jim Judkins and others from Comms Cache



[Link to register for course](#)

Are you a public safety telecommunicator or manager supporting interoperable communications for events and emergencies? Whether you're a fresh telecommunicator, a seasoned ECC leader, an emergency manager or field responder, or just comms-curious, this class is for you! Been to COML or COMT but it's been a while? Need to refresh knowledge or test some skills? This class is also for you! First, you'll spend some time in the classroom with experienced trainers and mentors from the Virginia Communications Cache. Then put on your comfortable shoes, because you're going outside to learn and practice with radios, repeaters, towers, VOIP and more! Finally, we'll work through a simulated event together, testing and learning along the way.

Topics that will be discussed in this course will include:

- Review of CISA's existing "COMU Overview" materials
- COML Overview and Discussion
- Different radio system technologies (system type, frequency bands, analog/digital, conventional/trunking, interoperability channels)
- Networks, PTS, GETS/WPS, TSP
- Developing a 205 with emphasis on local development and creation of 217
- Use of ICC, INCM, and INTD

The course is presented with facilitated lectures and hands-on exercises. It involves extensive interactive discussion and exercises. Certified instructors work through discussions and exercises to explain in detail the processes used to achieve communication operability, interoperability, and how to incorporate additional communications solutions. There's a lot between zero and COML, and this class is your passport to the Virginia Communications Unit.

March 16, 2025

Outside the Yellow Tape: Family Assistance Planning and Operations (25 seat max)

9am-5pm, 8-hour course – 1 day

Location: TBD

Instructors: Carrie Gonzalez, Kelly Higgins Myers and others

[Link to register for course](#)

The goal of this course is to provide an understanding of the family assistance operations model to enable participants to effectively plan for and operationalize humanitarian assistance for those impacted by a mass casualty/fatality incident.

Audience: Local and state representatives from: Emergency Management, Social Services, Behavioral Health, Victim Assistance, Schools, Public Affairs, Law Enforcement, Medical Examiners, and other community partners that may support a family assistance operation.