

# 2024 Minnesota State Communications Exercise

## August 19–22, 2024 at Camp Ripley

### Benefits of Attending the Exercise

This multi-agency, operations-based exercise includes the mobilization of emergency management personnel and resources. In this exercise your skills will be put to the test in different aspects of interoperable communications. It is designed to improve the readiness of Communications Unit (COMU) response personnel. So no matter if you are a seasoned COMU person or looking to get your Position Task Book (PTB) signed off, this exercise is for you!

- **COML** — Communication Unit Leader
- **COMT** — Communication Technician
- **INCM** — Incident Communications Manager
- **INTD** — Incident Tactical Dispatcher
- **ITSL** — Information Technology Services Leader
- **AUXC** — Auxiliary Communicator

The exercise is at no cost to the participants, housing and meals are paid for, to register for the 2024 Communication Exercise:

Use the link or scan the QR code.

[surveymonkey.com/r/2RWPXLD](https://surveymonkey.com/r/2RWPXLD)



#### Useful Information Covered by the Exercise:

- **Enhanced Coordination:** It helps establish and improve processes, tools, and techniques for effective communication between different agencies, which is crucial during emergency responses.
- **Skill Development:** The training provides the opportunity to practice using communication policies, procedures, and technologies, which can significantly improve the performance of emergency responders.
- **Policy and Procedure Improvement:** Lessons learned from this exercise can be used to update and refine a jurisdiction's documented plans and procedures.



- **Preparedness:** Engaging in these exercises prepares participants for real-world scenarios, ensuring that communication procedures become second nature and are reliably performed during emergencies.
- **Interagency Collaboration:** It fosters a cooperative environment where agencies can create partnerships to implement new technology and broaden policies for seamless communication interoperability.
- **Using:** SMART Objectives with tasks specifically designed by real people drawing from real experience. The exercise is designed using, SMART criteria.
  - Specific,
  - Achievable,
  - Time-bound
  - Measurable,
  - Relevant, and

**To ensure clear, attainable goals and to provide:**

- Realism: Conducted on a secure location using the equipment and personnel that would be called upon in a real event.
- Multi-Agency Involvement: multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional, and multi-discipline, requiring coordination among various entities.

**To help prepare for this exercise the Public Safety Communications Conference being held May 6–9, 2024 will offer the following classes that are related to the exercise:**

**May 6 (Monday preconference training day)**

- Setting up a portable repeater.
- Installing a gateway device.

**May 7 (Tuesday, first day of the conference)**

- Incident Action Plans — Interpreting them into a Communications Plan.
- Primary, Alternate, Contingency and Emergency (PACE) — Planning for Emergency Communicator and Planners.
- Interoperability in the Encryption Age
- Emergency Communication Capabilities of the National Guard.



**Conference Classes**

[dps.mn.gov/divisions/ecn/Pages/public-safety-communications-conference.aspx](http://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ecn/Pages/public-safety-communications-conference.aspx)





# NorthStar II

August 19 - 22, 2024  
Camp Ripley, Minnesota

Date / Time	Who	Event	Instructor	Location
Aug 18, 2024 1600 - 1900	Staff	EOC Set Up	Exercise Director	Building 9-2
1900 - 2000	Controllers / Evaluators / SIM CELL	C/E Meeting	Exercise Director	Building 9-2
<b>Monday</b>				
Aug 19, 2024 0630 - 0745	All	Breakfast		Dining Hall (Building 6-76)
0745 - 0800	All	Check in	Staff	EOC (Building 9-2)
0800 - 0830	All	Welcome and Introduction	ECN Team	EOC (Building 9-2)
0830 - 0930	All	Capabilities Briefing and Team Assignments	Individual Equipment Owners	EOC (Building 9-2)
0930 - 1000	All	Situation and Safety Briefings	HSEM / ECN Team	EOC (Building 9-2)
1000 - 1130	EOC Staff	EOC Training	Evaluators	EOC (Building 9-2)
1000 - 1130	COML - INCM	Work on ICS-205 Incident Communication plan(s), request frequencies / talk groups, deconflict plans and assemble a P.A.C.E plan.	Evaluators	EOC (Building 9-2)
1000 - 1130	COMT - INTD	Inventory equipment, Go Bags - Final preparation's.	Evaluators	EOC (Building 9-2)
1000 -1130	ITSL - AUXC	Work on ICS-205 Incident Communication plans (Amateur Radio), secure frequencies for use, deconflict plans. Build a ICS-205B for incident data communications, Inventory equipment, Go Bags - Final preparation's.	Evaluators	EOC (Building 9-2)
1130 - 1230	All	Lunch		Dining Hall (Building 6-76)
1230 - 1300	All	Check in / EOC Situation Briefing	Incident Commander	EOC (Building 9-2)
1300 - 1330	All	Request Equipment for operation	Incident Commander	EOC (Building 9-2)
1330 - 1545	All	COMMEX	Controllers	Training Areas
1545 - 1600	All	Secure Equipment / Site	Controllers	Training Areas
1600 - 1630	All	Daily Hot Wash	Controllers	EOC (Building 9-2)
1700 - 1800	All	Dinner		Dining Hall (Building 6-76)



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Date / Time	Who	Event	Instructor	Location
<b>Tuesday</b>				
Aug 20, 2024 0630 - 0745	All	Breakfast		Dining Hall (Building 6-76)
0800 - 0830	All	Check in / EOC Situation Briefing	Incident Management Team	EOC (Building 9-2)
0830 - 1600	All	COMMEX	Controllers	Training Areas
1200 - 1300	All	Bag Lunch	Support Staff	Bag Lunch to be served on training sites.
1615 - 1630	All	Secure Equipment / Site	Controllers	Training Areas
1630 - 1700	All	Daily Hot Wash / AAR	Controllers	Training Areas
1700 - 1800	All	Dinner		Dining Hall (Building 6-76)
<b>Wednesday</b>				
Aug 21, 2024 0630 - 0745	All	Breakfast		Dining Hall (Building 6-76)
0800 - 0830	All	Check in / EOC Situation Briefing	Incident Management Team	EOC (Building 9-2)
0830 - 1200	COMT	Rotate through stations 6 - 12, 15 & 16	Evaluators	EOC (Building 9-2)
0830 - 1200	COML	Rotate through stations 1 - 5, 11 - 14 & 16	Evaluators	EOC (Building 9-2)
0830 - 1200	AUXC	Rotate through AUXC / ARES Tasks	Evaluators	EOC (Building 9-2)
1200 - 1300	All	Lunch		Dining Hall (Building 6-76)
1300 - 1545	All	COMMEX	Controllers	Training Areas
1545 - 1630	All	Police Call / Secure Sites	Controllers	Training Areas
1630 - 1700	All	Daily Hot Wash / AAR	Controllers	Training Areas
1700 - 1800	All	Dinner		Dining Hall (Building 6-76)
<b>Thursday</b>				
Aug 22, 2024 0630 - 0745	All	Breakfast		Dining Hall (Building 6-76)
0800 - 0950	All	DEMOB Phase: Building Turn-in, Equipment Clean-up and Inventory	Controllers / Evaluators	Building 9-2 and Area 9
1000 - 1100	All	After Action Review	Facilitator	Building 9-2
1100 - 1200	All	Lunch		Dining Hall (Building 6-76)