



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS

THE RESPONDER

NEWS OF THE IAEM-STUDENT COUNCIL

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Reasons to Get Involved in the Student Council

By: Andrew Jarvi

I have been an IAEM student member since March of 2007 and have talked to a number of students that believed it to be too challenging to obtain their CEM. I have to disagree with this. In fact IAEM has even created the AEM to give those of us working our way up a valuable credential in the interim. I am working on getting my documentation together for the AEM and found that with the FEMA Independent Study Courses and other courses outside of my degree I am very near completing that portion of the requirement. Once you have met the training requirement all that is left is the essay, getting the three references and taking the test.

The area I hear students say is the most challenging area in the CEM requirements other than the Emergency Management Experience are professional contributions. Chapters should use the very first contribution as a way to recruit their members. If a student joins IAEM at the beginning of their freshman or sophomore year then they will have this completed when they graduate. All of those that just attended this year's conference have the second item on the list completed.

The third item, Service Role, is still not difficult you just have to look for opportunities to serve on emergency management related committees either in IAEM, on your campus or in your home community. An example of this is I am the USA Student Region representative on the IAEM Training and Education Committee as well as the University and College Committee. If you wish to represent the Student Council on an IAEM committee contact the USA Student

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Region President Brian Silva to see if we have a representative on that committee. Remember, if you serve as our representative you will be expected to give a summary of each meeting for that committee.

The fourth item is also attainable as a student, if you serve as an elected officer (president, v. president, treasurer or secretary) for your chapter, student region or the IAEM Student Council which currently has the secretary and treasurer positions open. Serve at least one term as an elected officer and you have completed yet another step towards your CEM.

The other items on the Professional Contributions list are attainable; all it takes is the desire and some reasonable effort. I strongly encourage you to become more involved.

IAEM Past President Larry Gispert summed it up best at the conference when he said "The wagon is awfully heavy and we need everyone pulling it." The IAEM-Student Council and USA Student Region have accomplished a great deal but there is a great deal more that we can do to help you advance towards a successful career in emergency management, but it could happen more quickly and efficiently if you all would take an active part in the effort.

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The author currently works as the Emergency Management Coordinator at Columbus State Community College in Columbus, OH while he is pursuing a Master of Arts in Emergency and Disaster Management from American Public University. As the coordinator his duties include writing and revising the college emergency operations plan, assisting the college departments in writing emergency response plans and business continuity plans, emergency response training, incident management. He also currently serves as the First Vice President to the IAEM-USA Student Region.

Now's the Time. Resolve to be Ready in 2009

By Erin Streeter, Director, Ready Campaign

Planning is a daily part of our routine. We plan our holiday activities, weekend activities and grocery store visits. We plan our children's schedules and daily tasks. And, without a doubt, endless lists often follow. There is one particular list that deserves to be checked twice – and it's not your holiday shopping list. We're talking about reviewing your emergency preparedness checklist and developing an emergency preparedness plan for your family.

As the New Year approaches, the Department of Homeland Security's Ready Campaign is encouraging everyone to Resolve to be Ready in 2009. While nearly 50 percent of Americans make New Year's Eve resolutions, very few manage to keep them, but this is one resolution that can be easy to keep with Ready's three simple steps:

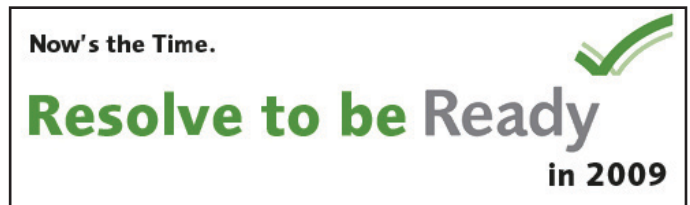
1. Get an emergency supply kit.
2. Make a family emergency plan.
3. Be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur in your area and their appropriate responses.

The Ready Campaign encourages you to take a few extra minutes at the beginning of this new year to plan in case of an emergency. Consider the following questions: Have you spoken to

your children's schools about their shelter-in-place and/or evacuation plans?; Do you know the evacuation plan at work?; If your cell phone was inoperable how would you get in touch with your family?; Do you have a family meeting place and an out-of-town contact? These are just a few of the questions you should consider as you are developing your emergency plan.

Free preparedness resources, such as a Family Emergency Plan template and an Emergency Supply Kit Checklist are just a click away at www.Ready.gov or www.listo.gov. The Ready Web site also has a special section for kids, ages 8-12, (Ready Kids) and small- to medium-sized businesses (Ready Business). Be sure to check it out – print out your emergency plan template and emergency supply kit list and begin planning with your family today.

Emergencies will happen, but taking action now can help us minimize the impact they will have on our lives. Remember, Now's the Time. Resolve to be Ready in 2009.



2008 Conference Attendance
 112 Students attended the 2008 IAEM Conference in Overland Park, KS.

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2008-2009

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2008-2009

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