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## News Release

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### IAEM Applauds Selection of Proenza to Head the National Hurricane Center

**December 6, 2006 (Falls Church, Va.)** – The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) applauds today's announcement that William Proenza will become the new director of the National Hurricane Center (NHC), replacing the retiring Max Mayfield.

Proenza currently is the director of the National Weather Service's Southern Region which encompasses approximately one-fourth of the contiguous United States, including Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Southern Region provides around the clock weather warnings and forecasts for the protection of life and property and in support of the nation's economic well-being.

"Coming from the state of Florida, I have a great appreciation of the importance of the NHC," stated IAEM First Vice President Larry Gispert, director of Hillsborough County (Fla.) Emergency Management. "IAEM looks forward to working with Bill to ensure success of the mission of the NHC, which is to save lives, mitigate property loss, and improve economic efficiency by issuing the best watches, warnings, forecasts and analyses of hazardous tropical weather, and by increasing understanding of these hazards."

A meteorology graduate of Florida State University, Proenza has served more than 30 years in the National Weather Service and has received numerous performance commendations and awards. "Bill is a great choice to be the nation's spokesman during hurricane disasters," concluded Gispert.

*The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) is a non-profit organization consisting of nearly 3,000 emergency management professionals from local, state and the federal governments, military, private industry, and volunteer organizations. IAEM has consistently promoted the goals of saving lives and protecting property during emergencies and disasters since its founding in 1952 as the U.S. Civil Defense Council.*

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