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News Release

IAEM Calls for Additional Work on the National Response Framework *Bohlmann Testifies on Readiness in the Post-Katrina and Post 9-11 World*

September 11, 2007 (Falls Church, Va.) – The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) urges the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to work with local and state emergency managers to fix the National Response Framework (NRF). “IAEM believes that the NRF should serve as the over-arching planning document that identifies the roles and responsibilities of all potential players and the methods by which resources are requested and delivered at all levels,” stated Robert C. Bohlmann, CEM, chairman of IAEM’s U.S. Governmental Affairs Committee. “It is not rocket science – and it does not have to be 800 pages long. The draft NRF that we have reviewed appears to be more like a public relations document rather than a response plan or framework.”

IAEM’s review of the draft NRF has uncovered several concerns:

- IAEM believes that the draft NRF fails to comply with provisions of the Post-Katrina Reform Act which state that the FEMA “...Administrator is the principal advisor to the President, the Homeland Security Council, and the Secretary [of DHS] for all matters relating to emergency management in the United States.” IAEM also believes that the draft NRF fails to acknowledge the Act’s requirement that the Administrator “shall lead the Nation’s efforts to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate against the risk of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters including catastrophic incidents.” The NRF should not be the vehicle for reducing FEMA’s responsibility and authority.
- IAEM believes there is a serious disconnect between what the DHS authors of the draft NRF say regarding the roles of the Principal Federal Officer (PFO) and the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) and what Congress intended in the Post Katrina Reform Act and the Stafford Act.

On September 10, 2007, DHS released a version of the draft NRF for a 30 day public comment period. IAEM urges DHS, after the conclusion of the comment period, to re-engage emergency managers to make this a workable document.

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) is a non-profit organization consisting of nearly 4,000 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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