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NEWS RELEASE

New Entry-Level Certification Program Is Available for Emergency Managers

June 27, 2007 (Falls Church, Va.) – The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Board of Directors recently approved a change in the Certified Emergency Manager® (CEM®) program, the internationally recognized program that certifies achievements within the emergency management profession. “The **Associate Emergency Manager (AEM)** credential has been repositioned as an ‘entry-level’ credential, allowing beginning professionals to engage in the certification process and begin establishing a benchmark of their professional activity,” announced Elizabeth B. Armstrong, MAM, CAE, IAEM Executive Director.

New Requirements for the Associate Emergency Manager (AEM) Credential

To earn the Associate Emergency Manager (AEM) credential, requirements now include three references, 200 hours of training (100 each in emergency and general management), an essay, and an examination. The CEM® credential additionally requires experience and professional contributions. “This change gives emergency management professionals the opportunity at the beginning of their careers to have a credential in the emergency management profession that is recognized not only nationally, but internationally in more than 14 countries,” stated Billy Zwerschke, CEM, CEM® Commission Chair.

Benefit to Emergency Management Employers

Dave Sullivan, CEM, Immediate Past Chair of the CEM® Commission believes that this change in AEM eligibility requirements creates an entry-level training standard for emergency management that’s been long overdue. “When looking to fill entry-level positions in emergency management offices, employers will be able to recognize the dedication, professionalism and knowledge base of the AEM-credentialed applicant,” noted Sullivan. “AEM-certified individuals will possess the education and training that managers seek. The fact that they have attained this credential will bear witness to their dedication and professionalism.”

About the CEM® Program

CEM® certification is a peer review process administered through the International Association of Emergency Managers. IAEM membership is not a requirement of certification, but it does offer applicants a number of benefits that can assist them through the certification process. Certification is maintained in five-year cycles. The CEM® program is served by a CEM® Commission that is composed of emergency management professionals, including representatives from allied fields, education, the military and private industry. Development of the CEM® program was supported by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), and a host of allied organizations.

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) is a non-profit organization consisting of more than 3,600 emergency management professionals from local, state and federal governments, the 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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