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News Release

The International Association of Emergency Managers Names Winners of the 2017 IAEM International Council Business & Industry Preparedness Award

Oct. 31, 2017 (Falls Church, Va.) – The IAEM-Global Awards & Recognition Work Group of the International Association of Emergency Managers has selected IAEM member Andrew Friend, disaster clinical coordinator, Faisal Hospital & Research Centre, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, as the winner of the 2017 IAEM International Council Business & Industry Preparedness Award. Award winners will be recognized on Nov. 13, 2017, at the IAEM 65th Annual Conference & EMEX, Nov. 10-15, 2017, in Long Beach, California.

Andrew Friend was recognized for his creation of the emergency management program at Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, including development of an Emergency Operations Plan, adoption of ICS, reorganization of the Emergency Operations Center, employment of the new concept of an ICP, creation and training of a Level A CBRN Response Team, and institution of an ongoing training program. Under his direction, existing disaster plans were reorganized into an Emergency Operations Plan. ICS (with vests and gear) was adopted and implemented with a reorganized EOC and the “new” concept of an ICP. Additionally, a level A CBRN response team was created and trained by Mr. Friend. He also instituted a training program for new hires.

King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre is the largest and most well-known facility in the region. The decisions the hospital makes are replicated across the region. Because of the work Mr. Friend has done, other organizations are starting to implement ICS and many of the hospitals have built their own CBRN decontamination teams. Not only did this work increase the resiliency of King Faisal, but it had an impact on the region as a whole. Furthermore, the hospital is now engaged with the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) and will be the first hospital in the world to be inspected for the program. This effort is influencing other organizations in the region to pursue a higher level of emergency management.

The Business & Industry Preparedness Award recognizes excellence in implementing a program that plans for multiple hazards, sets implementation priorities, is cost effective, links all levels of the organization, and coordinates with local emergency response and management agencies. The program must be replicable by similar organizations in business and industry.

Learn more about the annual IAEM Award Competitions at www.iaem.com/Awards.

IAEM is a nonprofit professional organization representing more than 4,600 emergency management and homeland security professionals for local communities, state and federal disaster officials, private sector, non-governmental organizations, and others involved in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all types of disasters, including acts of terrorism. IAEM provides access to the largest network of emergency management experts who can provide advice and assistance; the Certified Emergency Manager/Associate Emergency Manager program; annual scholarships; a comprehensive monthly newsletter; and more.

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