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News Release

IAEM-Oceania Announces the Winners of the 2016 IAEM-Oceania Awards

July 22, 2016 (Falls Church, Va.) – The IAEM-Global Awards & Recognition Work Group of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) is pleased to announce the following awards in the 2016 IAEM-Oceania Council Awards Competition. The award winners will be recognized at the IAEM 64th Annual Conference & EMEX, Oct. 14-19, 2016, in Savannah, Georgia. Two of the IAEM-Oceania winners, **Wellington SPCA** and **Barwon South West Regional Emergency Management Training and Exercise Committee**, went on to win IAEM-Global Awards in their category.

- The **2016 IAEM-Oceania Partners in Preparedness Award** was given to the **Barwon South West Regional Emergency Management Training and Exercise Committee**, a partnership composed of eight representatives from six different agencies, for its development of **Exercise Red Alert**, an exercise involving more than 30 agencies that region of Victoria, Australia. Exercise Red Alert involved all local governments, emergency services and recovery agencies to assess their knowledge, preparation, response to and recovery from a period of extended heat. This winning entry also received the 2016 IAEM-Global Partners in Preparedness Award.

The **Partners in Preparedness Award** recognizes programs or processes that demonstrate innovative, multi-participant involvement between local governments and governmental entities and private sector businesses, non-governmental organizations and non-profits, or individuals which have resulted in effective and efficient incident management, emergency management or homeland security processes.

- The **2016 IAEM-Oceania Business & Industry Preparedness Award** was given to the **Wellington Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals** (Wellington SPCA) for its creation of New Zealand's first animal emergency management reserve training program. The SPCA nationally plays an important role in disaster response, yet has never had a formal training capacity other than a specialist technical rescue unit based in Wellington. Volunteers now are cross-trained to provide emergency management surge capacity with specialist training in setting up and operating pet-friendly evacuation centers (which improves evacuation compliance and enhances the psycho-social well-being of affected evacuees), microchipping (to aid in rapid reunification of non-chipped evacuated animals) and the ability to assist emergency services with door-to-door evacuation of homes, including pets. This is a national first, providing a model for other SPCAs throughout New Zealand and around the world. This winning entry also received the IAEM-Global Business & Industry Preparedness Award.

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 **2016 IAEM-Oceania Public Awareness Award, Division 2** (regional/nonprofit) winner is **Wellington Region Emergency Management Office**, for its development and presentation of a series of Organizational Resilience Symposia, to build organizational resilience for small businesses, school, and aged residential care facilities. Each session is facilitated to guide participants through disaster preparedness and continuity of operations and support relationship building amongst peers within a sector. It is recognized that these three groups are some of the most

vulnerable to disaster. These symposia have allowed WREMO to connect with much larger numbers than traditional one-on-one planning while also encouraging cross-pollination of ideas among participants. Feedback has been tremendously positive and has changed WREMO's community engagement approach.

The **Public Awareness Awards** recognize outstanding public awareness programs or public education products related to emergency management, homeland security, and/or disaster preparedness.

Learn more about the IAEM Council and Global Awards Competitions at www.iaem.com/Awards, where information about all IAEM awards is posted.

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), which has more than 6,000 members in 58 countries, is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to promoting the goals of saving lives and protecting property during emergencies and disasters. IAEM provides: access to the largest network of emergency management experts who can provide advice and assistance; the Certified Emergency Manager program; annual scholarships; a comprehensive monthly newsletter; and more. Visit www.iaem.com for details.

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