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News Release

IAEM-USA Announces Winners of the 2016 IAEM-USA Awards Competition

July 22, 2016 (Falls Church, Va.) – The IAEM-USA Awards & Recognition Committee of the International Council of Emergency Managers (IAEM) is pleased to announce the winners of the IAEM-USA 2016 Awards Competition. The award winners will be recognized at the IAEM 64th Annual Conference & EMEX, Oct. 14-19, 2016, in Savannah, Georgia.

- The **2016 IAEM-USA Partners in Preparedness Award** winner is the **partnership between two for-profit companies (Qualcomm and Leidos) and the San Diego County Department of Emergency Medical Services (EMS)** for the **SoCal READI Full-Scale Exercise, “Regional Anthrax Response,”** which included all Southern California health departments. The exercise evaluated Southern California’s capability to respond to a public health threat. Participating entities were tasked with receiving and dispensing medications to 20 million residents using Points of Dispensing (PODs). Both public PODs (managed by San Diego County Department of EMS) and closed PODs (managed by private companies or the military) were activated following confirmation of Anthrax exposure that triggered a public health emergency. Eleven counties, 13 public health departments, military bases, and private companies responded in the bioterrorism exercise. The SoCal READI exercise is a premier demonstration of the benefits of long-term public/private sector partnering to ensure greater community preparedness.

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

- The 2016 IAEM-USA Business & Industry Preparedness Award winner is the **Colorado Springs Utilities Emergency Management & Continuity Department (CSU EM)** for developing a **best-in-class utility industry emergency management program** that incorporates the best practices, principles, and concepts of the emergency management, homeland security, and business continuity domains. The CSU EM program encapsulates an end-to-end approach to assessing threats and risks; developing all-hazards as well as risk-specific emergency and continuity plans; training and exercising a robust crisis management team; collecting, analyzing, and applying industry, homeland security, and other source intelligence in security and preparedness activities; ensuring regular and transparent interaction with local, state, and national partners; and conducting frequent critical infrastructure and hazard-based exercises.

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.

2016 IAEM-USA Public Awareness Awards

- The winner of the **2016 IAEM-USA Public Awareness Award, Division 1 (local)**, is the **King County (Washington) Office of Emergency Management** for its creation of the **ICS Combo Course**, which has been well-received by local agencies, increasing their NIMS compliance rates while supporting the retention of important ICS concepts by

participants, who range from volunteers to elected officials. The course combines the core concepts from ICS-100 Incident Command System, ICS-200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents, and ICS-700 National Incident Management System. The course has been taught across Washington State, with overwhelming positive feedback from both host agencies and students. To date, participants have included: administrative staff from King County departments, elected officials; event planners; security staff with CenturyLink Field and SafeCo Field (home of the Seahawks, Mariners, and Sounders sports teams); the University of Washington and Washington State University; first responders from cities and special municipality districts; American Red Cross; critical infrastructure specialists; and Washington National Guard. All levels of government have participated, from local to federal. King County's partners in the private and non-profit sectors also participated. Pierce County (Washington) has adopted the ICS Combo Course and made it a recurring offering on their training calendar, as have several King County cities. The ICS Combo Course is an "open source" initiative, built to be shared and customized for all sectors, levels of government, and disciplines.

- The winner of the **2016 IAEM-USA Public Awareness Award, Division 2** (regional/nonprofit), is **Virginia Commonwealth University's Office of Emergency Preparedness and Division of University Relations**, for collaborating on an **integrated, multi-channel communications campaign** to capitalize on the worldwide attention for the 2015 UCI Road World Championships, to prepare VCU students, faculty and staff, and to provide emergent and emergency management information needed for the event, which was hosted by the City of Richmond, Virginia. The comprehensive communication program established by VCU for the 2015 UCI World Road Championships comprised a year-long effort of planning, research, and development to efficiently and effectively communicate with the 50,000 internal stakeholders (students, faculty, and staff), as well as the more than 600,000 spectators in the area. In the end, this plan developed and implemented a dedicated internet information portal, online navigation portal, email account, parking and transportation forums, email messages, text messages, digital displays, informational postcards, pop-up "spin" classes, public presentations, employee and student ambassadors, and twitter chats to maximize the information available to the general public.

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

2016 IAEM-USA Technology & Innovation Awards

- The winner of the **2016 IAEM-USA Technology & Innovation Award, Division 1** (local), is the **County of San Diego (California) Office of Emergency Services** for its **August 2015 launch of the updated Emergency Portal**, a trio of emergency websites offering critical preparedness, response and recovery information in Spanish, along with an updated SD Emergency app that was enhanced to allow users to switch between English and Spanish versions. Spanish users now receive real-time Spanish push notifications when new disaster information is available. These comprehensive translations into Spanish allow more users than ever before to access critical, and at times, life-saving emergency alerts and preparedness tools. Users can access interactive hazard specific maps and emergency response and recovery information when disaster strikes the region. Both platforms offer hazard-specific preparedness information, interactive checklists, live emergency maps, and live emergency news updates. The updated Spanish Emergency Portal and SD Emergency app were launched in August 2015, and within weeks, offered Spanish updates to the public on a county-wide heat advisory. The new Spanish versions of the Emergency Portal website have been critical in reaching thousands of new San Diego residents, most recently for the Santee liquid bleach spill in October 2015, and for significant rains and flooding advisories in January 2016. As San Diego County's population continues to grow, the preparedness, response, and recovery materials found on the Spanish Emergency Portal and SD Emergency app now stand ready to serve a greater number of residents when disaster strikes.

The **IAEM-USA Technology & Innovation Awards** recognize the development of technology and innovation to improve emergency management operations, public education, or the emergency management/homeland security field.

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.