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News Release

The International Association of Emergency Managers Announces Winners of the 2017 IAEM-USA Partners in Preparedness Award

Oct. 26, 2017 (Falls Church, Va.) – The IAEM-USA Awards & Recognition Committee, International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), is pleased to announce the winners of the IAEM-USA 2017 Partners in Preparedness Award. The award winners will be recognized on Nov. 13 at the IAEM 65th Annual Conference & EMEX, Nov. 10-15, 2017, in Long Beach, California.

The **2017 IAEM-USA Partners in Preparedness Award** winner is the partnership between **Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center**, Pomona California and the **California Governor's Office of Emergency Services' Division of Access & Functional Needs** for their partnership to create a *Hospital Resource Guidebook* to meet the unique needs of individuals with disabilities and access/functional needs.

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC), a 450-bed Adult Level II Trauma Center in Northeast Los Angeles County, partnered with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), Division of Access and Functional Needs (AFN), toward creating a *Hospital Resource Guidebook* to meet the unique needs of individuals with disabilities and access/functional needs. A task force of experts were assembled, which met on a regular basis over the past year. This ongoing project was co-chaired by L. Vance Taylor, Chief of the Office of Access and Functional Needs at California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and Steve Storbakken, Director of Emergency Preparedness and Environmental Safety at PVHMC.

The U.S. Census Bureau has reported that nearly 20% of the nation's population has a registered disability, though it is widely believed that the actual number is much higher due to individuals who would not disclose their disability. In addition, FEMA has reported that a significant number of individuals have access and functional needs. In a disaster, the extensive needs of both communities, those with disabilities and those with AFN, can be greatly increased and may create unique challenges to hospital emergency departments. The *Hospital Resource Guidebook*, which will help hospitals to successfully meet those challenges, is being shared with hospitals throughout California.

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.

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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