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NEWS RELEASE

IAEM Welcomes Federal Coordinating Officers to its Ranks

November 12, 2007 (Falls Church, Va.) – The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) would like to recognize the commitment of leaders at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support the involvement of their Federal Coordinating Officers as IAEM members, including their enrollment in the Certified Emergency Manager® program. “This decision clearly demonstrates that FEMA leadership sees the CEM® program as a benchmark of professional achievement in the emergency management field,” said Elizabeth B. Armstrong, MAM, CAE, IAEM Executive Director. “FEMA has ensured that every FCO is an IAEM member, and initial paperwork has been completed for each FCO to pursue the CEM®.”

“This decision significantly benefits both the Federal Coordinating Officers and IAEM,” noted IAEM President Mike Selves, CEM. “It adds credibility to the FCOs as they work disasters across the nation, and it furthers the acceptance and value of the CEM® certification. It’s a real win-win situation.”

Although IAEM already had Federal Coordinating Officers (FCOs) among the membership of the association, FEMA now has enrolled all 34 FCOs as IAEM members and Certified Emergency Manager® program applicants. “Our partnership with IAEM and the CEM® certification of our FCOs stands to affirm them as the leaders among our profession,” stated FEMA Administrator R. David Paulison.

“I am elated over the prospect of all FEMA FCOs becoming Certified Emergency Managers®,” stated Billy Zwerschke, CEM, CEM® Commission Chair and a Past President of IAEM. “I am pleased that Mr. Johnson has promoted this partnership with IAEM and shown his confidence in the CEM® program. Having the CEM® credential will increase the credibility of FEMA personnel in their work with local jurisdictions in recovery operations. I personally have worked with two FCOs to assist them with the CEM® application process, and I was appreciative of their interest in acquiring the CEM® designation. I look forward to welcoming the FCOs and other FEMA employees as CEM@s and as members of IAEM.”

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.

About IAEM

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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