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News Release

Larry J. Gispert, Director, Hillsborough County (Fla.) Emergency Management, Elected Highest Official in International Organization

Nov. 30, 2007 (Falls Church, Va.) – Larry Gispert, director for Hillsborough County Emergency Management in Tampa, Fla., has been elected as the 2007-2008 president of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). 2006-07 President Michael D. Selves, CEM[®] passed the gavel to Gispert during the Presidential Banquet Nov. 14 in Reno, Nev.

Gispert pledged to the members of IAEM he will further develop and continue to strengthen the overall IAEM organization, including assisting the current 700 international members residing in 44 countries outside the United States with their needs. He plans to facilitate the shift in the organizational structure and have the non-U.S. councils focus on interests in their specific regions while a new IAEM-USA council can focus on issues concerning those U.S. based members.

“Forming a new international structure has been challenging this organization for the past several years,” said Larry Gispert. “It’s time to stop talking and start doing and make this organization even stronger since emergencies do happen all over the world.”

Gispert has 27 years of experience in the field of emergency management, having been employed by Hillsborough County (Fla.) Emergency Management since 1980. In 1993, he became the director of the County’s Emergency Management Department. He has actively promoted for every county resident to develop a plan on how they will react to an approaching storm or disaster.

Gispert is known by his peers to be a very knowledgeable emergency manager, willing to help anyone at any time. Throughout his career he has been deployed more than a dozen times to help other communities recover from the effects of storms or other types of disasters. The first major significant storm he handled was Hurricane Elena in 1985.

Gispert is certified by the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) as a Professional Emergency Manager (FPEM) and has been an active member in both FEPA and IAEM for a number of years. While with FEPA, he was elected president in 2000 and prior to that he was FEPA treasurer for two years. His activities with IAEM include election as IAEM Region IV president from 2004 to 2006. In 2006-07, he was elected the IAEM first vice president.

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) is a non-profit organization consisting of nearly 4,000 emergency management professionals from local, state and the federal governments, 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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