

Networking to Justify Your IAEM Annual Conference Attendance

HOW TO CONVINCE YOUR BOSSES THAT YOU NEED TO ATTEND IAEM 2009

IAEM 2009 Annual Conference Justification Toolkit

<http://www.iaem.com/events/Annual/ConferenceJustificationToolkit.htm>

The International Association of Emergency Managers is known for holding relevant, interesting and exciting IAEM Annual Conferences. The speakers get better and more high-profile every year. EMEX, IAEM's Emergency Management & Homeland Security Expo, convened in tandem with the Annual Conference, is drawing exhibitors who are the top homeland security and disaster preparedness suppliers.

IAEM Budget-Conscious Plans: Extra Savings in Tough Times

We want you to be making plans now to attend the IAEM 57th Annual Conference & EMEX 2009, set for Oct. 31-Nov. 5, 2009, at the Orange County Convention Center and Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. The IAEM Conference Committee is hard at work to make this a do-not-miss event.

IAEM wants to do its part to get you to Orlando. Here are some budget-conscious plans already in the works:

- IAEM has announced its early bird registration fee discounts.

- Each year IAEM arranges for discounted room rates at our conference hotel, and a range of other economic hotel options will be identified.

- IAEM is negotiating discounts on rental cars, so that you can get around in Orlando at the best possible prices.

- IAEM is interested in short suggestions (1-2 paragraphs) on how to save money at the conference; best ideas will be published in the *IAEM Bulletin*.

- Also, the IAEM Editorial Work Group has lined up two IAEM members who are preparing feature articles on how to keep

your travel costs down – one from the Individual Member perspective and one from the Student Member perspective.

Help Your Fellow Members

What would help you to convince your bosses that you need to be in Orlando this year for the IAEM 2009 Annual Conference & EMEX? Let's pool our ideas to help each other. Tell us:

- What reasons will you share with your boss about why the IAEM 2009 Annual Conference should be kept in your organization or agency's budget?

- What did you take home from past IAEM Annual Conferences that has improved operations where you work?

- What is the best way to put together a proposed budget for the conference?

- What information do you need about the 2009 program now, in order to make your case?

- IAEM has been making conference presentations and materials available post-conference, some years via CD and some years via posting in a password-protected area on the IAEM Web site. Do you plan to use these resources as one of your selling points?

Creating a Conference Justification Toolkit ...with your help!

IAEM has put together an online IAEM 2009 Annual Conference Justification Toolkit.

Here you will find: a letter of invitation to you as an IAEM member; a sample letter of invitation to your supervisor requesting your presence at the conference (that you can customize with your supervisor's name); a reminder

about the Apr. 24 deadline for submitting speaker proposals and links to the official form and guidance documents; IAEM discounts that are already in place (with more to come); benefits from conference attendance; and a listing of the main conference themes and breakout session topics.

Many IAEM members tell us in conference feedback surveys that the IAEM Annual Conference is *the* most important event of the year to help them stay aware of the latest resources, trends and technology. Many of you mention the importance of networking with your peers, pointing out that the IAEM Annual Conference offers a welcoming and collaborative atmosphere where those from all levels of government, private sector, public health and related professions can freely exchange ideas. We hear that EMEX showcases technologies, products and services that can help you reach your goals. If this sounds familiar, it's because these benefits are posted on our Conference Web Page, as taken directly from you – our members.

We hope that you will take a few minutes to help us with creating the "IAEM Annual Conference Justification Toolkit." The usefulness of the toolkit will depend on the extent of feedback that we receive from you. Please e-mail your ideas, your short suggestions, and your answers to the questions in this article to *Bulletin* Editor Karen Thompson at thompson@iaem.com. Be sure to note whether we can use your name with any quotes.

