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## NEWS RELEASE

### IAEM Announces Winners of 2009 Global Awards Competition

**November 3, 2009 (Falls Church, Va.)** – The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) has announced the winners of the IAEM-Global 2009 Awards Competition. The awards were presented at the IAEM 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & EMEX 2009, held Oct. 31-Nov. 5, 2009, at the Orange County Convention Center and Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida.

The **Career Excellence Award** recognizes a national/international leader who has made significant contributions throughout his/her career to promote and improve the emergency management profession. The 2009 recipient of the IAEM Career Excellence Award is **Bill Proenza**, Southern Region Director, National Weather Service (NWS), for his leadership, commitment to service, and support of local emergency management. Mr. Proenza has directly enhanced the ability of emergency managers to make lifesaving decisions during severe weather events. Martha Braddock, IAEM-USA Policy Advisor, who has worked closely with Mr. Proenza on several legislative issues, stated, "Bill Proenza has been a passionate defender and promoter in the NWS of the interests of local emergency managers." Mr. Proenza has consistently reminded the NWS that emergency managers are key customers. He made possible a forum with the NWS administrator, key staff and local emergency managers during an IAEM Annual Conference. These discussions directly resulted in several significant improvements in coordination of information and weather forecast products, and the forum has since become a standard session at IAEM Annual Conferences. Mr. Proenza has helped to create an atmosphere of innovation and coordination that enhances the capability and credibility of local emergency managers.

The **Academic Recognition Award** recognizes an academic leader or institution that has made a significant contribution to the formal education of students pursuing a career in emergency management or through research and development of paradigms or standards that have helped shape the broader field of emergency and disaster management. The 2009 recipient of the IAEM Academic Recognition Award is the **American Military University** for its undergraduate and graduate degree program in emergency and disaster management. The university is 100% online and was originally designed in the mid 1990's to meet the higher educational needs of active duty military personnel stationed around the world. Since then, AMU has grown to include civilians as well as military. AMU is the first 100% online university to be accredited by the Foundation of Higher Education (FoHE) for Disaster and Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and its faculty members are actively involved with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Higher Education Initiative. Technological innovation is a hallmark of AMU, which also has its own radio show on AMU Radio, "Issues and Trends in Emergency Management," hosted by Program Director Dr. Chris Reynolds, CEM. AMU has the largest IAEM Student Chapter, which publishes a monthly newsletter and holds monthly teleconferences with members and special guests.

The **Business & Industry Preparedness Award** is based on 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 repeatable by similar organizations in business and industry. This year's winner is **Georgetown University Office of University Safety, Department of Emergency Management & Operational Continuity**.

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The **Partners in Preparedness Awards** recognize 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. There are two 2009 winners of the Partners in Preparedness Award:

- The **Calahan Project**, which was the first time in Belgium that all stakeholders sat down together and developed a common plan which describes each party's responsibilities in the emergency recovery process.
- The Independence (Missouri) Emergency Operations Center and Jackson County (Missouri) Emergency Operations Center's **Faith-Based Preparedness Program (FBPP)**, which uses existing relationships to create "extensions of the EOC." Independence and Jackson County preparedness offices partnered with local faith organizations to communicate emergency warnings, education, and training through trusted relationships between faith leaders and members. FBPP also connects health departments, Citizen Corps volunteer groups, Red Cross, Salvation Army, local hospitals and many other groups with the EOC and faith-based organizations. All of these groups communicate and work together on a daily basis to keep citizens prepared and safe.

An **IAEM Certificate of Merit** also was presented in the Partners in Preparedness Award category to the **Carroll County (Indiana) Flood Recovery Effort** with partners that included Carroll County (Indiana) EMA, Eel River Tribe of Indiana, Purdue University, National Weather Service, Northern Indiana Public Service Company, Clark County Rural Electric Membership Corporation, and Disaster Assistance for Northwest Indiana.

The **Interagency Disaster Preparedness Award**, co-sponsored by **Homeland1.com**, recognizes programs that involve an ongoing multi-agency effort whose mission is primarily disaster and/or terrorism mitigation, prevention, response and/or recovery. Entry is open to emergency response, emergency management and emergency support agencies (such as public health and public works) and their municipal, county, tribal, state, provincial, military or federal jurisdictions or parent agencies. The 2009 recipient is the **Pinellas County (Florida) Homeless Evacuation/Sheltering Plan**, developed by the Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless with the assistance of Pinellas County Health and Human Services and Pinellas County Emergency Management.

The **IAEM Public Awareness Awards** recognize outstanding public awareness programs or public education products related to emergency management, homeland security, and/or disaster preparedness. The 2009 award recipients include:

**Public Awareness Award (Division 1, Local Emergency Management Agency)**

- *First Place:* The San Diego County (California) Office of Emergency Services for the "Tsunamis: Know What to Do!" video.
- *Second Place:* The San Diego County (California) Office of Emergency Services for its Wildfire Public Awareness Campaign.
- *Third Place:* The Los Angeles County (California) Department of Public Health for its Public Health Emergency Online Preparedness Training Program for Schools and Communities.
- *Certificate of Recognition:* The Orange County (Florida) Office of Emergency Management for its Children's Hazardous Weather Preparedness Program.

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**Public Awareness Award (Division 2, State/Regional National Government, International, or Non-Profit Organization)**

- *First Place:* Washington State Emergency Management for its Map Your Neighborhood Program to build and strengthen disaster preparedness in neighborhoods.
- *Second Place:* The Emergency Preparedness Initiative for its Preparedness Education Campaign, created to bridge the divide between the disability and emergency preparedness communities.
- *Third Place:* Concordia University's Office of Emergency Management (Montreal, Canada) for its public community education video on emergency procedures.

**Public Awareness Award (Division 3, Commercial or Other For-Profit Organizations)**

- *First Place:* "The Road to Ready" weekly Internet radio show, produced and hosted by Rick Tobin, TAO Emergency Management Consulting, Spring Branch, Texas.

The **IAEM 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 2009 award recipients include:

**Technology & Innovation Award (Division 1, Local Emergency Management Agency)**

- *First Place:* Pinellas County (Florida) Emergency Management for its enhanced "Know Your Zone" Web site.
- *Second Place:* Johnson County (Kansas) Emergency & Homeland Security for its JOCO Alert Public Notification System.
- *Certificate of Recognition:* Region 5/6 Emergency Management (Nebraska) for its NIMS Refresher Quiz Game.

**Technology & Innovation Award (Division 2, State/Regional National Government, International, or Non-Profit Organization)**

- *First Place:* Sacred Heart University (Fairfield, Connecticut) for the rollout of its Comprehensive All-Hazard & Business Continuity Plan via Microsoft SharePoint Software.
- *Second Place:* The Virginia Dept. of Emergency Management for its Virginia Interoperability Picture for Emergency Response (VIPER).

Learn more about the IAEM-Global Awards Competition at [www.iaem.com/Awards](http://www.iaem.com/Awards), where the 2010 Call for Entries will be posted in Summer 2010.

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The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), which has more than 5,000 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](http://www.iaem.com) for details.

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