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News Release

IAEM-USA Announces the 2021 Partners in Preparedness Award

Oct. 11, 2021 (Falls Church, Va.) – The IAEM-USA Awards & Recognition Committee of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) is pleased to announce the winner of the IAEM-USA 2021 Partners in Preparedness Award. The award will be presented at the Monday Networking Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on Oct. 18, 2021, at the 69th IAEM Annual Conference & EMEX, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The winner of the 2021 IAEM-USA Partners in Preparedness Award is the Microsoft Corporation.

At the beginning of COVID-19, the Microsoft Corporation aided the Washington State Department of Health (WA DOH). This partnership brought skilled technicians and processes not typically enjoyed by a public organization. Microsoft teams were embedded almost immediately in WA DOH and began meeting seven days a week. These teams assisted in developing public-facing Dashboards which helped manage PPE and vaccine distribution, created a hospital data system (WA Health) within 35-days and registered every hospital in Washington, and partnered with others to create the Vaccine Command and Coordination System (VACCS) which boosted the state's vaccinations.

The **Partners in Preparedness Award (Public/Private Partnership)** recognizes programs or processes that demonstrate innovative, multi-participant involvement between local governments/governmental entities and private sector businesses, non-governmental organizations/nonprofits, public or private schools, or individuals which have resulted in effective and efficient incident management, emergency management or homeland security processes. This award is to showcase the public emergency management program and a specific private sector partner whose collaboration made your community more prepared.

IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 5,000 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 program; annual scholarships; a comprehensive monthly newsletter; and more.

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