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## News Release

### **IAEM-USA Announces the 2022 Business and Private Sector Integration and Public Sector Partnership Award**

**Oct. 11, 2022 (Falls Church, Va.)** – The IAEM-USA Awards & Recognition Committee of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) has selected the partnership of Pierce County Emergency Management and Bird’s Eye Medical for the IAEM-USA 2022 Business and Private Sector Integration and Public Sector Partnership Award. The award will be presented at the Monday Networking Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on Nov. 14 at the 70<sup>th</sup> IAEM Annual Conference & EMEX, in Savannah, Georgia.

#### **The Partnership of Pierce County Emergency Management and Bird’s Eye Medical Winner of the IAEM-USA Business and Private Sector Integration and Public Sector Award**

Pierce County Department of Emergency Management (PCDEM) formed a partnership with Bird’s Eye Medical of Olympia, Washington, during the county’s COVID-19 pandemic response to allow people to drive up in their cars, stay in them while getting tested, and leave the site afterward. Results were emailed or texted to the residents three to five days later with positive tests prioritized for notification. The testing continued until March 2022 when demand decreased and free, mail-order tests were available to anyone. The testing operation saw an immediate response from the community, often with lines of cars snaking through large parking lots to handle the volume of people seeking tests. The partnership expanded its scope in January 2021 when Pierce County Department of Emergency Management planned and opened mass vaccination clinics for COVID-19 in the county. Between January and July 2021, Pierce County Emergency Management, with Bird’s Eye Medical, vaccinated more than 95,000 people – often vaccinating between 1,000 and 2,500 people in a day. Using the mass mobile testing concept developed in 2020 as a template, the vaccination clinics were designed to get the most people through the process in an eight to ten-hour period. Like the testing clinics, the vaccination sites were free to everyone, and they were set up around the county to reduce the barrier of travel for as many people as possible. Both the PCDEM staff and Bird’s Eye Medical’s staff worked in a variety of conditions – but almost always outside. In the winter months of western Washington, this can be difficult as staff managed people coming on-site while also coping with cold temperatures, rain, ice, and wind. Staff often ended their days working under floodlights to make sure as many people could get

vaccinated as possible.

The **IAEM-USA Business and Private Sector Integration and Public Sector Partnership Award** recognizes excellence in the integration of public/private emergency management partnerships.

*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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