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News Release

IAEM-USA Announces the 2022 Uniformed Services Civilian Emergency Manager of the Year Award Winner

Oct. 11, 2022 (Falls Church, Va.) – The IAEM-USA Awards & Recognition Committee of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) has selected Matthew Tilimon for the IAEM-USA 2022 Uniformed Services Civilian Emergency Manager of the Year Award. The award will be presented at the Monday Networking Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on Nov. 14 at the 70th IAEM Annual Conference & EMEX, in Savannah, Georgia.

Matthew Tilimon

Winner of the IAEM-USA Uniformed Services Civilian Emergency Manager of the Year Award

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Matthew Tilimon ensured that the Area Committee meetings, Natural Disaster Operational Work Group (NDOW) exercise, and severe weather exercises were effectively adapted for a virtual environment while many other Coast Guard units canceled or postponed similar initiatives. Due in large part to his aggressive adherence to maintaining unit response readiness, Sector Houston-Galveston (SHG) was equipped to successfully respond to the most active hurricane season on record in 2020. Tilimon led responses to Hurricanes Laura, Marco, and Beta as the deputy planning section chief, operations branch director, and Command ICS advisor, and consistently coached, mentored, and trained personnel from every section throughout each response.

Further demonstrating his superior knowledge, resourcefulness, and leadership, he led the standup of SHG's ICP to support Sector New Orleans' (SECNOLA) Incident Management Team relocation during Hurricane Ida in 2021. Tilimon provided logistical and technical support for their continuity of operations plan, rallied SHG support to fill critical IMT positions, and mentored and coached SECNOLA's command and general staff during the first and most critical operational periods. While SECNOLA was still managing the Hurricane Ida response out of SHG, with many of the SHG staff filling IMT roles, he expertly adjusted space, resources, logistics, and staff to concurrently support preparations and response to Hurricane Nicholas, which directly hit SHG, and superbly led and supported two major commands' responses simultaneously.

The IAEM-USA Uniformed Services Civilian Emergency Manager of the Year Award is for the individual serving in civil service or as a contractor serving the U.S. Armed Forces performing emergency management as his/her primary function.

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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