



# IAEM-USA Region VII Conference



## Diogenes Ayala

### **Madison County Emergency Management & Homeland Security**

#### **March 5, 2022, Madison County, Iowa EF-4 Tornado Response**

Diogenes Ayala is currently serving in the role of Emergency Management & Homeland Security Director for Madison County Iowa, where he is responsible for the planning, protection, mitigation, response & coordination for all hazards that can affect the community. His goal is to build a culture of preparedness for residents and visitors of Madison County. Mr. Ayala has completed numerous operations, exercises, and threat assessments in his role as director.

In his prior position as Director of Criminal Justice at Southwestern Community College, Mr. Ayala was responsible for delivering education, training and mentorship for undergraduate students seeking careers in public safety. Mr. Ayala worked in the telecommunications field for eighteen years focusing on business continuity and disaster recovery operations. In March of 2022, Mr. Ayala led recovery operations after a EF4 tornado caused fatalities and damaged properties in Madison County. It was the deadliest tornado to occur in Iowa since 2008. The EF4 was the second longest tornado in Iowa history being on the ground for 70 miles. The recovery operations involved over one thousand volunteers in sixty days, debris removal and sheltering. Mr. Ayala was selected at the 2022 Iowa Emergency Manager of the year.

Mr. Ayala, a veteran of the United States Navy, holds an undergraduate and graduate degrees in Criminal Justice from Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. Mr. Ayala is also a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated. He is a graduate of Texas A&M Infrastructure Protection Program. Mr. Ayala has completed Executive Leadership Education from the University of Notre Dame and Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Operations & Technician training from the Department of Homeland Security Center of Domestic Preparedness. Mr. Ayala is also a graduate of The Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Program (BMAP) and Enhanced Trainer program which is a counterterrorism bombing prevention program, sponsored by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)'s Office for Bombing Prevention. Mr. Ayala is currently attending the Naval Postgraduate school, Center for Homeland Defense and Security as a graduate student.