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News Release

IAEM-USA Announces the 2023 USC Civilian Emergency Manager of the Year

Oct. 19, 2023 (Falls Church, Va.) – The IAEM-USA Awards & Recognition Committee of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) has selected Peter Hirai, CEM, as the IAEM-USA 2023 USC Civilian Emergency Manager of the Year. The award will be presented at the President’s Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Nov. 8 at the 71st IAEM Annual Conference & EMEX in Long Beach, California.

Peter Hirai, CEM 2023 USC Civilian Emergency Manager of the Year

Peter’s role as an emergency management program coordinator for the U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) has significantly enhanced emergency response and preparedness in the region. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he was the G-34 Protection representative, providing immediate feedback and support to the directorate and Army senior leadership. His dedication to ensuring the continuity of emergency management training, especially in the aftermath of pandemic-related disruptions, is noteworthy.

Under his leadership, recruiting certified Incident Command System (ICS) lead instructors and delivering multiple FEMA in-person training classes have expanded the training capacity in his area of responsibility, including American Samoa and Japan. This effort enhances the skills and knowledge of emergency responders and contributes to overall preparedness.

As a Certified Emergency Manager, Peter’s expertise and dedication to teaching ICS/NIMS courses have been invaluable. His role as a subject matter expert in the Task Force Ohana response to the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility incident highlights his practical contributions to disaster management and emergency response.

Peter’s commitment to mentoring and advocating for training opportunities has contributed to the professional development of individuals in the emergency management community. His ability to find alternative training solutions during budget constraints reflects his resourcefulness and dedication to continuous learning.

Peter's contributions to emergency management, training, and preparedness in the USARPAC region have been exemplary. His leadership, expertise, and commitment to excellence make him highly deserving of this recognition and commendation in the field of emergency management.

The IAEM-USA USC Civilian Emergency Manager of the Year Award recognizes an individual serving in civil service or as a contractor supporting the U.S. Armed Forces who has consistently demonstrated significant contributions to the field of emergency management while continuously self-developing as an emergency manager.

IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 5,800 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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