

IAEM-USA Region 7 NEWSLETTER

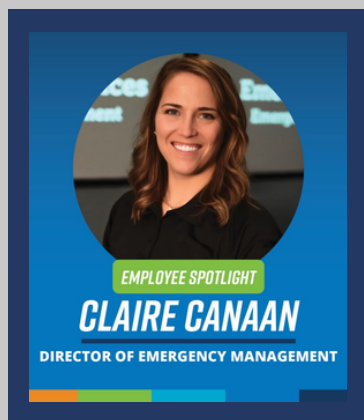


21 AUGUST 2025



Region 7 CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

We are proud to recognize Julie Stimson, Director of Emergency Management for Sedgwick County, Kansas, as the recipient of the 2025 IAEM-USA Region 7 Emergency Manager of the Year Award. Julie's dedication, commitment, and passion for serving her community and advancing emergency management across our region exemplify the highest standards of our profession. Being nominated by her peers and recognized with this prestigious award highlights not only her outstanding leadership but also the strength and collaboration we are fortunate to have within Region 7. Congratulations, Julie!



As we celebrate Emergency Management Awareness Month, we are proud to share that our incoming IAEM-USA Region 7 President, Claire Canaan, CEM®, APIO, was recently recognized by the City of Belton, MO, for her outstanding contributions as their Emergency Manager. Claire's leadership exemplifies the year-round commitment of emergency management professionals—planning, training, and coordinating to ensure communities are ready for the unexpected. From severe weather events to public health emergencies, her dedication to preparedness, response, and recovery reflects the resilience and professionalism that define our field.

AUGUST BULLETIN NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The latest edition of the IAEM Bulletin is now available.

This general focus edition includes statements by the IAEM-USA 2nd vice presidential candidates, highlights the IAEM-USA Region 9 president, showcases the IAEM Region 7 conference, provides information on the IAEM-USA elections, and much more.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW CERTIFIED EMERGENCY MANAGERS

Region 7 is proud to celebrate two newly certified CEM® professionals as of July—Jacob Babb, Sr. Emergency Preparedness Specialist with Omaha Public Power District, and Saroja Schwager, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator with East-West Gateway Council of Governments. Achieving the Certified Emergency Manager designation is a significant milestone that reflects their expertise, dedication, and commitment to advancing our profession. We invite all Region 7 members to join us in congratulating Jacob and Saroja and to take a moment to reach out, connect, and show support as they continue to strengthen emergency management across our communities.



AWARDS 2025



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – HONORING THOMAS CRAIGHTON

IAEM-USA Region 7 proudly presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Thomas Craighton of Hardin County, Iowa, in recognition of his 43 years of service in healthcare and emergency management.

Thomas dedicated 36 years to Franklin General Hospital, serving as a Paramedic and Respiratory Therapist Supervisor, before spending 5 years leading Franklin County Emergency Management and concluding his career with 6 impactful years as Director of Hardin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Throughout his career, Thomas has been responsible for developing and implementing emergency plans, coordinating with local, state, and federal partners, managing budgets and grants, and advancing the training and education of emergency personnel and volunteers.

With more than four decades of experience across emergency management, fire service, and healthcare, Thomas has earned numerous credentials and certifications while consistently demonstrating his passion for protecting lives, enhancing public safety, and strengthening community resilience. His leadership, dedication, and commitment to service leave a lasting legacy for Region 7 and beyond. Congratulations, Thomas, on this well-deserved honor.



CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT!



MOLLY BARGMANN, CEM

Please join us in congratulating Molly Bargmann, MPA, CEM, our IAEM-USA Region 7 State Representative for Nebraska, on being selected as one of the recipients of the IAEM-USA Top 40 Under 40 Award!

This prestigious recognition celebrates emerging leaders under the age of 40 who have demonstrated exceptional talent, leadership, and dedication in the field of emergency management. Molly's accomplishments, service, and impact across Nebraska and Region 7 are a true reflection of what this award represents—excellence, innovation, and meaningful community engagement.

Molly is not only advancing the profession through her leadership and collaboration, but she's also serving as a role model for the next generation of emergency management professionals. Her commitment to resilience and public service is inspiring, and this honor is incredibly well-deserved.

NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME

- Richelle Blume – KS
- Sarah Burkhart – KS
- Rachel Deaver – MO
- Scott Tanos – MO
- Hope VanBennekom – MO
- Austin Farley – MO
- Matthew Harrison – NE
- Mark Murphy – IA
- Quinton Parsons – KS
- Whitney Shipley – NE

Flat Lands, Big Plans: BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all of the speakers who made the Fourth Annual IAEM-USA Region 7 Conference, “Flat Lands, Big Plans: Building Resilient Communities for the Future,” a success. With six excellent presentations covering critical topics—including active shooter response lessons learned, senior and pediatric preparedness, crisis communications, and rural full-scale exercise planning—our region once again demonstrated the depth of expertise and collaboration that defines emergency management. Their dedication to sharing knowledge and strengthening resilience is a true reflection of the excellence within Region 7.



REGIONAL STRENGTH ON DISPLAY

Nearly 100 regional partners gathered for this year’s conference, creating a powerful space to exchange best practices, discuss community challenges, and strengthen collaboration across the emergency management spectrum. From local concerns to broader regional issues, these discussions underscored the value of coming together to share knowledge and solutions. The Region 7 Conference continues to serve as a cornerstone for building resilience and advancing our shared mission to protect and serve our communities.

NETWORKING NIGHT AT CHICKEN N PICKLE



We extend our thanks to Krucial Rapid Response for hosting another successful networking event at Chicken N Pickle during the Region 7 Conference. It was an evening filled with connection, conversation, and camaraderie—bringing together both longtime colleagues and new friends. Events like this remind us that some of the best ideas, partnerships, and collaborations begin with a simple conversation shared outside the formal sessions.



Help Spread the Word – Seats Still Open!

The MGT-906 Incident Command System (ICS) Train-the-Trainer Course will be hosted in Jefferson City, MO, September 22–26, 2025. This intensive 40-hour course is a unique opportunity to build instructional capacity in our region, preparing participants to deliver FEMA/EMI's ICS curriculum. With only 35 seats available (23 still open), we encourage you to share this opportunity widely within your networks. Let's do our part to ensure strong participation and continue building resilience through high-quality ICS training.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AWARENESS MONTH

**AUGUST IS NATIONAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
AWARENESS MONTH**



**DO YOU KNOW YOUR
EMERGENCY MANAGER?**

Standing Together for Emergency Management

As National Emergency Management Awareness Month continues, we are proud to highlight our regional partners who are joining us in recognizing the vital work of emergency managers across every community, campus, region, and state. This month is not only about awareness—it is about telling our story, sharing why we do what we do, and inspiring the next generation of leaders in our field. Emergency managers are the standard-bearers and the foundation for those who will follow, building on today's efforts to create a safer and more resilient tomorrow. Let's stand strong together, continue to grow our profession, and ensure that our collective impact is felt in every corner of the communities we serve.



Learn more about these articles and more on LinkedIn

A Shout-Out to Our President

Special thanks to Randy Pommenville for his excellent leadership, dedication, and commitment to growing and promoting Region 7 and its members. Your efforts continue to inspire momentum—let's keep sharing information, strengthening our networks, and building resilience together.



**Randy Pommenville, President
IAEM-USA Region 7**

