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News Release IAEM-USA Announces the 2025 Technology & Innovation Award

Oct. 17, 2025 (Falls Church, Va.) – The Awards & Recognition Committee of the U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA) has selected NASA Disasters Response Coordination System (DRCS) for the 2025 IAEM-USA Technology and Innovation Award. The award will be presented at the 73rd IAEM Annual Conference & EMEX in Louisville, Kentucky.

2025 IAEM-USA Technology & Innovation Award Recipient NASA Disasters Response Coordination System (DRCS)

NASA's Disasters Response Coordination System (DRCS) is redefining how advanced science supports emergency management. Awarded the Technology and Innovation Award, DRCS exemplifies a transformative "One-NASA" approach—unifying expertise, data, and technology from across NASA's centers to provide reliable, timely, and actionable disaster insights.

Designed with partners in mind, DRCS focuses on real-world decision-making, rapidly providing critical products such as flood maps, wildfire extent, landslide assessments, and power outage detection using nighttime light data. The system is notable for its adaptability, transparency, and measurable impact.

By combining global Earth observation capabilities with locally tailored support, DRCS ensures that space-based science delivers real value on the ground. It embodies a forward-looking vision: transforming advanced technology into lifesaving tools that help communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

The Technology and Innovation Award recognizes the development of technology and innovation to improve emergency management operations, public education, and the emergency management/homeland security field.

IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit organization representing more than 5,800 emergency management and homeland security professionals for local communities, state and federal disaster officials, the 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.