

Candidate Statement – Jon Shear, Incumbent IAEM-USA Region 9 President

Aloha,

As your **incumbent IAEM-USA Region 9 President**, I am honored to ask for your continued support for the office of Region 9 President. The past year since I started this one year term in November 2024 has been one of significant progress as we work to address significant challenges to the field of emergency management.

During my current term, we have made substantial strides in enhancing our regional structure and providing valuable opportunities for our members. A key accomplishment has been the **successful rewriting of the Region 9 bylaws**, ensuring they comply with the IAEM-USA Bylaws and better serve our regional needs. This critical update strengthens our operational framework and reflects our commitment to effective governance. Furthermore, I am proud of the planning we have done to support our **first-ever IAEM-USA Region 9 Symposium in Hawaii, which is scheduled for 12-13 August 2025**. This landmark represents a new milestone for our region, offering an invaluable platform for professional development and networking. We have already exceeded the sponsorship levels from our last symposium in 2023, and have a fantastic line up of speakers. And, we have supported the efforts of IAEM in raising awareness of National Emergency Awareness Month in August, which included sending our representative to meet with elected officials and emphasize the critical role of emergency management professionals in our communities.

My background has prepared me to lead these initiatives and serve our diverse region effectively. I have resided in Region 9 in Hawaii since 2010, and during this time, I have actively supported IAEM in leadership positions, including roles within the Emerging Technology Caucus and on the IAEM conference committee. My experience within Region 9 encompasses conducting numerous training events, exercises, planning workshops, and capability assessments across a wide geographical area, including Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. I am also a founding member, current board member and a past-president of the Emergency Management Professionals of Hawaii, which serves as our state-wide emergency management association.

My introduction to the emergency management profession began over 30 years ago in the Army, where I was certified as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Hazmat Tech. During my military service, I commanded an emergency response team that responded to WMD/CBRNE incidents throughout the world. Over the past three decades, I have had the

opportunity to work across the U.S. and with a dozen countries and territories on a broad range of planning, training, and exercise efforts aimed at improving preparedness in each community. This included supporting projects at DHS on the National Preparedness Task Force, as well as at FEMA, where I supported the National Continuity Programs Directorate.

Looking ahead, my commitment remains focused on **increasing engagement, networking, and collaboration among Region 9 members**. The mission of IAEM-USA is to foster resilience by engaging the diverse emergency management community through professional development, networking, information exchange, and advocacy. Similarly, the IAEM-USA Region 9 mission is to "support the whole community by enhancing the resiliency of IAEM-R9 members through information sharing and networking to provide collaboration between emergency management sectors and value to the communities we serve". I believe that IAEM plays a critical role in building and nurturing connections throughout our profession, a lesson powerfully reinforced by recent events. If re-elected, I will continue to prioritize:

- **Expanding opportunities for members to discuss and learn about emergency management issues** of interest to Region 9.
- **Strengthening networking and collaboration** across the diverse sectors and jurisdictions within our emergency management community.
- **Building on the success of our inaugural regional symposium in Hawaii** to continue to foster shared learning, innovation, and stronger professional ties across the region.
- **Ensuring the effective implementation of our revised Region 9 bylaws** to enhance operational clarity and member benefit.

I am excited about the opportunity to continue working with you all for a full 2-year term. Please feel free to contact me at jshear@readyzonehq.com or at 443-690-5604 with any questions.

Mahalo,
Jon Shear, CEM
IAEM-USA Region 9 President
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