

IAEM R9 Newsletter

{ 6/13/2025 }

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SAVE THE DATES

- Jun 13:** R9 Early Registration Deadline
- Jun 16:** Call for Scholarship Commissioners Deadline
- Jun 16:** Call for Certification Commissioners Deadline
- Jun 16:** General registration opens for IAEM Annual Conference in Louisville, KY
- Jun 30:** IAEM Awards Deadline
- Jun 30:** R9 Room Block Deadline (Hyatt Centric and Prince Waikiki)
- Jun 30:** R9 Room Block Deadline (Sheraton Princess Kaiulani)
- Jul 9:** R9 Bylaws Voting Deadline
- Aug 1:** R9 Symposium Registration Deadline; Voting period begins for R9 president
- Aug 11:** R9 Symposium Evening Networking Event
- Aug 12-13:** R9 Symposium
- Aug 13:** Ask me Anything Certification Webinar
- Aug 14:** R9 Certification Exam
- Sep 2:** R9 Voting period ends (5 pm EST)
- Oct 10:** IAEM Early Registration Deadline
- Nov 14:** IAEM Annual Conference

Latest Updates

Aloha,
We sent out our last newsletter in March through the Substack platform, and we've also been posting to IAEMconnect and to our R9 LinkedIn page, But, we understand that not everyone has seen what we've been posting and are wondering what we've been working on.

In addition, we could use everyone's assistance in supporting National Emergency Management Awareness Month in August. And, of course, hope that you'll be able to join us for the R9 Symposium in Honolulu, HI.

I'm looking forward to providing this update and would appreciate getting your feedback on areas where you're looking for more information and/or support from the region as well as from IAEM. We're also looking for input on issues of interest from throughout the region.

Jon Shear, CEM
IAEM REGION 9 President
usaregion9president@iaem.com
[USA Region 9](#)



IAEM R9 Symposium Update

The symposium planning team has formally met 8 times this year (the next meeting is June 19th), selecting a venue, coordinating for discounted hotel blocks, conducting a call for speakers, finalizing the symposium program, and working on networking events including a fantastic social planned for August 11th at the Elks Lodge in Waikiki. We have locked in a number of sponsors, and are set to surpass the sponsorship for our last symposium in 2023. We are still finalizing the networking events scheduled for each night with more details to follow.

We will have a keynote from the administrator of the Hawaii Office of Homeland Security, and an interactive state/local emergency management panel facilitated by our own Todd DeVoe, CEM, MPA, IAEM 2nd VP. The detailed program with session information and speaker bios is posted to the symposium website.

Registration includes continental breakfast, all day beverage service, buffet lunch and parking on both days. We're also offering the certification exam the day after the symposium from 1 - 3:30 pm.

In addition, NDPTC and TEEX are offering a number of courses the week following the symposium. **We hope that you're able to join us and encourage everyone to register as soon as possible (NOTE: Early registration deadline is 13 June). Please let us know if you have any questions.**

Day 1 SPEAKERS



Troy Lutrick, CEM
VP, IAEM R9
It's All Fun and Games



Ethan Scenters-Zapico
M.S. Student, California State University, Long Beach
Finding the Future of Emergency Management



Vanessa Flores, CEM
Deputy Emergency Manager, University of California, Irvine/IAEM University and College Caucus
Friends and Relatives Center (FRC)/ Family Assistance Center (FAC) Operations and Planning Tools



Ted Halpin, CEM
Emergency Management Consultant
Executing Complex EM Plans



Liz Fischer
Disaster Preparedness/Community Resilience Coordinator, University of Hawaii
Extension Services in Disaster



Nancy Ooki
Extension Agent, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Maximizing a Growing Resource through the Implementation of an Adapted Team CERT Program

Day 2 SPEAKERS



Chris Godley, CEM
Director of Emergency Management, Stanford University
Black Swans, Grey Rhinos, and Dragon Kings: the Next Great Challenges for Emergency Management



Jimmie Collins
Chief, Planning and Operations, Hawaii Office of Homeland Security
Hawaii's Homeland Security 'Soant' Initiative: Civil Defense Modernized



Mary Ann Swendsen, CEM
All Domain Joint Training Planner / PMTEC Experimentation Integrator, INDOPACOM
Artificial Intelligence Use by Federal Agencies and Connecting with the Community



Grant Madden
Emergency Manager, UC San Diego Center for Healthcare Cybersecurity
Ransomware in Healthcare: An Emergency Managers Response and Recovery Manual



David Blacksborg
Senior Consultant, BSI Group
Extreme Weather Planning Strategies



Zuzette Bricker, CEM
Emergency Services Coordinator, Pechanga Fire Department
PLOT TWIST! Adaptive Thinking in Emergency Management



Symposium Dates
12-13 August 2025



Early bird registration
Deadline: 13 June 2025



Certification Exam Available
14 August 2025 (1- 3:30 pm)



Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i
2454 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96826



Join us for the IAEM-USA
Region 9 2025 symposium
in Honolulu, HI



IAEM-USA Region 9 Symposium
2025 Sponsorship/Exhibit
Submission Form



<https://forms.office.com/r/RtTkZ76JyB>

Sponsors/Exhibitors

There are still a few opportunities available for sponsorship of the symposium. See the sponsorship tab for additional information.

Annual Board Meeting

The IAEM-USA Board met April 23-24 in Omaha, Nebraska to finalize and adopt the 2025-26 budget, evaluate the management firm performance, address crisis communications, update the Administrative Policies & Procedures, solidify plans for National Emergency Management Awareness Month (August), and Emergency Management on the Hill Day (June 25), review Community Impact Task Force progress, assessed Omaha as a potential conference site for 2029, and more. The Board carefully assessed the potential impact of current economic and federal funding changes on IAEM operations. It also considered 35 different funding requests representing an impressive level of activity and engagement within IAEM-USA groups, and assessed management effort and fees.

This was my first annual board meeting, and I learned a lot about how the board operates, and future plans for the organization. We discussed the importance of engaging with our membership on a regular basis, and shared best practices and lessons learned from each of the regions.

R9 Support

If you are interested in assisting our efforts in the region we could use your support. Please fill out the survey by 30 June.



NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AWARENESS MONTH

What is National Emergency Management Awareness Month?

During August, emergency managers will conduct a coordinated, industry-wide awareness and advocacy campaign to promote the capabilities of emergency management and the role of emergency managers. Please take the opportunity to reach out and meet with:

- Elected local, state, tribal, territorial, and federal leaders.
- Private sector and nonprofit leaders – including healthcare, university, utility, and all other organizations.
- Organizational or community decision-makers who may influence emergency management.

The campaign website contains a number of campaign materials including legislative priorities, links to find your elected officials, templates for contacting them, and other items like social media posts, graphics, etc..

Letter Template: Supporting Emergency Managers Amidst FEMA Changes

[Your Name/Title]
[Your Organization]
[Your Address]
[Your City, State, Zip]

[Date]

The Honorable [Elected Official's Name]
[Elected Official's Title]
[Elected Official's Office Address]
[Elected Official's City, State, Zip]

Subject: Need to Support Emergency Management during FEMA's Evolving Landscape

Dear [Elected Official's Name],

I am writing to you today as the emergency manager for [Your Community's Name], dedicated to ensuring the safety and resilience of our community. As you know, effective disaster preparedness, response, and recovery are essential for protecting lives, property, and the economic well-being of our neighbors. With this critical responsibility in mind, I want to bring to your attention significant changes currently underway within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the potential implications these changes may have on my ability to effectively manage future disasters for [Your Community's Name].

FEMA, our essential federal partner, is undergoing significant transformation, affecting various aspects of its operations, from policy frameworks to funding mechanisms and staffing structures. While some of these changes may aim to improve efficiency, there is a growing concern within the emergency management community that they could unintentionally create challenges that adversely affect our local disaster response capabilities, particularly regarding staffing and financial resources.



Casting Call Opportunity

We are seeking emergency managers interested in participating in this initiative. We aim to focus on geographic diversity and representation of rural, suburban, and urban programs across IAEM regions. All footage will be captured by the end of June and may be featured in the upcoming National EM Awareness Month campaign and future IAEM publications. Sensitive content will be managed with care. A standard media release will be required prior to any filming.

Selection priority will be given to IAEM members, but non-members can be nominated by members for consideration. Submit your interest or nominate a participant by completing this [interest form](#).

Please send photos, videos, or questions to CommunityMemberEngagement@iaem.com.



IAEM Commissions, Committees, Caucuses, and Other Work/Task Groups

IAEM-USA has Standing Committees, Ad Hoc Committees, and Caucuses. Standing Committees are bodies with an ongoing, operational function, and Ad Hoc Committees are formed to complete a specific assignment of limited duration. Caucuses are groups with a special focus or function within the practice of emergency management.

Interested in Joining a Committee or Caucus?


IAEM-USA members interested in participating on a committee, caucus, or ad hoc committee page may review the group’s webpage through the links below. Email the staff liaison listed on the group’s page to request to be added as a member.

Learn How to Become a Committee or Caucus Leader

The period for expressing interest in committee or caucus leadership opened on June 3 and will run through July 5.

Want to Form a New Group?

Email chelsea@iaem.com an issue paper identifying the group purpose, tasks, and composition. The IAEM-USA Board must approve all new groups.



IAEM R9 Bylaws Update - Please Vote!

The IAEM-USA Region 9 Leadership is proposing amendments to the IAEM-USA Region 9 Bylaws. All IAEM-USA Region 9 Individual, Affiliate, and Lifetime members are invited to vote on the proposed amendments.

The voting period will be from June 9, 2025 - July 9, 2025. Voting will close on July 9, 2025, at 5:00 PM EDT. Members are encouraged to review the voting page [here](#) and the new bylaws document posted [here](#).

If you didn't receive your voting link on June 6th, please let us know

2025 IAEM AWARDS PROGRAM

NOMINATE BY JUNE 30

The IAEM Award Program recognizes professionals, volunteers, students and organizations across the emergency management industry to shine a light on the hard work and commendable results of the past year. Each submission is reviewed for eligibility and then judged by a team of esteemed judges from the emergency management field.

How to Enter

Login to the online platform, go to your dashboard, and select the award and review the award requirements. Use the link to complete the award application, and upload supporting documentation. Download and review completely the Award Guideline for each award prior to submitting the nomination/application form. Remember to also read the Awards and Recognitions Committee [Overarching Guidelines](#). Still have questions? Check out the [Awards and Recognitions Quick Facts](#).

CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIP COMMISSIONERS

Nominations extended to June 16



Call for Scholarship Commissioners

The IAEM Scholarship Commission is seeking candidates to fill 10 positions on the commission beginning Jan. 1, 2026. Seven positions are three-year terms in the Class of 2028; and three positions are standard one-year terms to be included in the Class of 2026.

Deadline to Apply is extended to 5:00 p.m. EDT, June 16, 2025

CALL FOR CERTIFICATION COMMISSIONERS

Deadline extended to June 16

Call for Certification Commissioners

The IAEM Certification Commission seeks dedicated emergency management professionals to serve as Certification Commissioners for the AEM/CEM Class of 2028. This is a unique opportunity to contribute to the integrity and advancement of the Certification Program while shaping the future of emergency management certification.

Term of Service: January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2028

Deadline to Apply is extended to 5:00 p.m. EDT, June 16, 2025

Annual Conference Registration to Open on 16 June

The IAEM 73rd Annual Conference & EMEX will be held at the:
The Kentucky International Convention Center
221 S. 4th St Louisville, KY 40202

Recommend registering as soon as possible in order to receive a link to book one of the conference hotels. And, please set aside time to join us for our R9 session at the conference.

Champions of Change

2025
Annual Conference & EMEX
Louisville, KY



November 14 –20, 2025

IAEM 72nd Annual Conference & EMEX



IAEM-USA R9 Meeting

Region 9 Meeting

Todd DeVoe, R9 President



2023 Region 9 Meeting

<https://forms.office.com/r/6dGd3ir5ST>

- Arizona
- California
- Hawaii
- Nevada
- American Samoa
- Guam
- Northern Mariana Islands

#IAEM24

IAEM R9 Annual Meeting 2024

Scholarship Basket Call to Action

Hello Region 9 IAEM’ers!

It’s that time of year again—and we’re aiming for ****Region 9 to take the top spot in basket raffle sales****! To make that happen, we need everyone’s help.

Please consider contributing some awesome swag: patches, challenge coins, gift cards, or anything your organization can donate. Every item helps make our basket unforgettable!

✔ ****Bringing it in person?**** Great—just bring it with you to the conference.

📦 ****Not attending?**** No problem! You can send your donation my way, and I’ll make sure it gets there.

🌴 ****Heading to R9 Symposium? ****I can grab it from you there.

Pechanga fire -EM
48240. Pechanga Rd., Temecula, CA 92592
Attn: Z. Bricker
Let’s make 2025 our best year yet!

Thank you all,
Zuzzette Bricker





Certification Information

On June 12th we held a webinar led by Hannah Ritz and Heather Long to discuss the requirements for becoming an Associate Emergency Manager (AEM®) or Certified Emergency Manager (CEM®). We're looking at potentially hosting another webinar in July prior to the exam scheduled for 14 August after the R9 Symposium.

NOTE: To be included in this year's recognition ceremony at the IAEM annual conference:

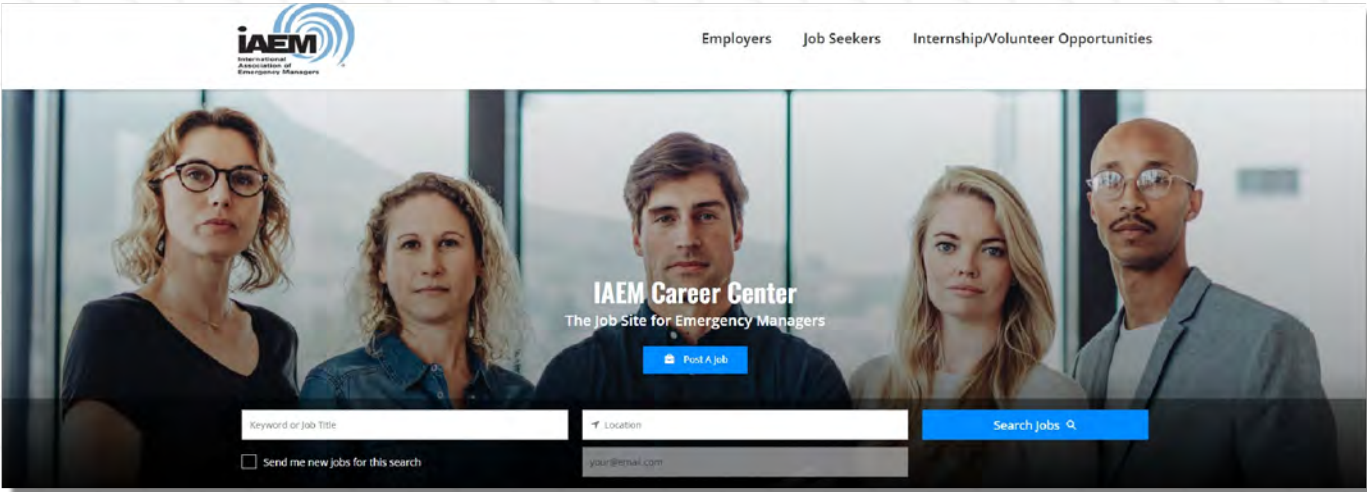
- Submit your completed application by August 31, 2025, and have it approved before or during the September review.
- Pass the certification exam and have it processed by October 16, 2025.
- Complete the awards ceremony participation survey sent in October.



For additional information see the new certification program website <https://www.iaem.org/get-certified/>

Resources

One of the most valuable sections of the IAEM website is the Resources section. The value of those resources comes from the content and engagement from throughout our organization, and we encourage you to submit articles of interest from R9 members to IAEM’s newsletter, and to actively participate in our R9 community page on IAEMconnect and our LinkedIn page.



Please use the IAEM Career center to post and/or to find jobs



Help support research for doctoral work at the University of Delaware Disaster Research Center by completing this survey: https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eWkcmQlXFuwgYgC

The intent of this survey is to understand if disaster management professionals are experiencing work-related burnout and, if so, learn how that burnout influences their ability to collaborate across sectors.

Participants must be at least 18 years old and work or volunteer for an agency/organization that works in disaster management.

The survey is expected to take 5 to 10 minutes.