

IAEM-USA Region 7 NEWSLETTER



01 March 2025

IAEM-USA Region 7: Supporting Emergency Management Professionals Across the Midwest

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), with over 6,000 members worldwide, is a non-profit educational organization committed to advancing the "Principles of Emergency Management." IAEM represents professionals dedicated to saving lives, protecting property, and preserving the environment during emergencies and disasters. IAEM-USA Region 7 supports members in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska, and works to foster strong partnerships with state emergency management associations throughout the region.

Why Join IAEM Region 7? Build Connections, Share Knowledge, and Lead the Future of Emergency Management!

🌍 ✨ Being a member of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) means being part of a global community dedicated to making the world safer. IAEM provides opportunities to learn, grow, and connect with professionals who share the same mission: protecting lives and communities from disasters.

Meet Mike Vacca, our 2025 IAEM-USA Region 7 Membership Committee Chair! For Mike, being part of IAEM is about leveraging knowledge, sharing best practices, and staying ahead in a constantly evolving field. Hear from him and learn what it means to be part of IAEM, where passion for emergency management meets a commitment to excellence. If you're passionate about emergency management and want to make a real difference, consider joining IAEM. Together, we're stronger.



CALL FOR
SPEAKERS

IAEM-USA REGION 7 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WHEN: JULY 23-24, 2025

WHERE: Johnson County Community College
12345 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS

HOW: Go to: https://bit.ly/IAEM_R7_2025
or scan the QR code below.



Proposal Deadline: March 31, 2025





In December, Kristen Kolleda, Chair of the Healthcare Caucus, attended the National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference in Orlando. She represented IAEM in their exhibit hall to share more about the organization and the benefits of being a member.

[Learn more about these articles and more on LinkedIn](#)

🌟 Call for Speakers: [IAEM-USA Region 7 Annual Conference!](#) 🌟

Do you have insights, experiences, or innovative ideas to share with the emergency management community? We're looking for dynamic speakers to join us at the IAEM-USA Region 7 Annual Conference in Overland Park, KS, on July 23-24, 2025!

♦ Who should apply? EM professionals, first responders, public safety leaders, and subject matter experts.

♦ What we're looking for: Case studies, best practices, lessons learned, and emerging trends in emergency management.

♦ How to apply: Submit your proposal by March 31, 2025 at bit.ly/IAEM_R7_2025 or scan the QR code in the image!

🗣️ Tag a speaker you'd love to hear from! Let's make this conference the best yet!



CONGRATULATIONS to Belton Emergency Management Director Claire Canaan, KCEM. On Tuesday, Jillian Rodrigue, President of the Kansas Emergency Management Association, presented Claire with the 2024 Outstanding Service Award.

AWARDS 2024



IAEM REGION 7 IS PROUD TO CELEBRATE THE DEDICATION AND ACHIEVEMENT OF ONE OF OUR OWN!

After committing nearly 175 hours to pre-requisites and academy coursework, Austin Brake has officially graduated from the National Emergency Management Basic Academy (NEMBA) at the National Disaster & Emergency Management University (NDEMU) by FEMA. This accomplishment reflects a strong commitment to professional growth and the advancement of emergency management.

We extend our appreciation to the phenomenal instructors who shared their real-world expertise, the NDEMU support staff for ensuring a seamless training experience, and the fellow emergency management professionals who contributed to a dynamic and enriching learning environment.

Austin sends a special thank you to the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Diane Mack, CEM, CBCP, for their support in making this achievement possible. The investment in professional development strengthens not only the individual but also the entire emergency management community.

Congratulations, Austin! Your dedication and hard work will undoubtedly enhance emergency preparedness and resilience across our region.



MUSCOM DIRECTOR ATTAINS EMERGENCY NUMBER PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

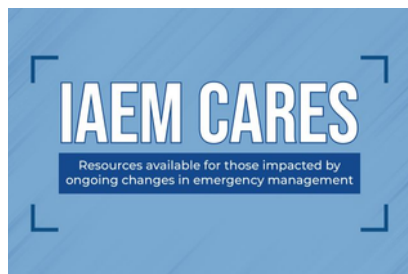


Chris Jasper, Director of Emergency Management and 911 for Muscatine County recently achieved the Emergency Number Professional (ENP) Certification. He is 1 of 25 in the state of Iowa to attain this certification.

Jasper has been in emergency communications for close to 20 years and always wanted to challenge the test. He stated, "Since starting in this profession, I've had the desire to grow in both knowledge and influence within the Emergency Communications environment. Studying for this exam helped me gain additional knowledge on all aspects of 911 including running a center."

After a review of the certification process in 1992, the National Emergency Numbers Association (NENA) Executive Board approved the establishment of an ENP Certification Program. The certification serves as a way for emergency communications professionals to receive formal recognition for professional development, promote competence in the field, and establish a comprehensive body of knowledge for Emergency Number Professionals.

"I am excited to be able to cross this certification off my bucket list. Knowing that I spent hours studying and preparing for this exam makes this accomplishment even that much greater," Jasper said.



IAEM is committed to supporting our members, especially during times of change in the federal emergency management landscape. To ensure you have access to essential resources, IAEM has launched the Member Resource Center, offering enhanced benefits and relief efforts.

💡 Key Resources Available:

- ✅ IAEM Career Center – Browse job listings, upload your resume, and post job openings for free.
- ✅ Complimentary Memberships – Federal employees impacted by recent changes can receive free IAEM membership.
- ✅ Extended Grace Periods – IAEM-USA members receive additional time to renew their memberships.
- ✅ Free Educational Opportunity – Laid-off federal emergency management personnel can attend the IAEM Plugged In virtual conference on May 9 for free.
- ✅ IAEM Bulletin Access – Stay informed and read the IAEM Bulletin, regardless of membership status.

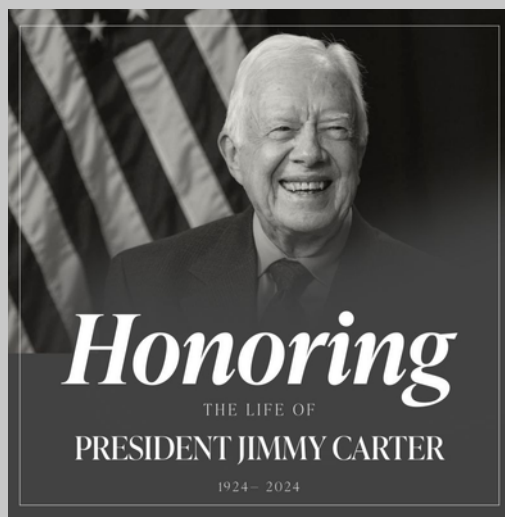
📌 Learn more and take advantage of these resources today: [IAEM Member Resource Center](#)



IAEM Region 7 is honored to highlight the expertise and contributions of Dr. Mary Schoenfeldt, a renowned Emergency Management Professional and FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Faculty member. With an impressive career spanning responses to hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires, floods, airline accidents, school and community violence, and mass fatality incidents, Dr. Schoenfeldt's impact is felt worldwide.

Her dedication to the field has earned her numerous accolades, including induction into the International Network for Women in Emergency Management (InWEM) Hall of Fame, the American Red Cross Real Hero Award, and the IAEM-USA recognition, among others. She is also a Lifetime Achievement Award recipient from the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation.

In her latest article, "[Fanning The Flames of Old Memories](#)" (January 10, 2025), Dr. Schoenfeldt explores the lasting impact of disaster trauma, shedding light on how past experiences resurface in the wake of new crises. This insightful piece offers valuable perspectives for emergency management professionals navigating the complexities of trauma response and recovery.



IAEM honors the life and legacy of President Jimmy Carter, a true example of humble service and dedication to the well-being of others. His leadership shaped our nation and transformed our response to disasters.

On April 1, 1979, President Carter signed Executive Order 12127, establishing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This historic move unified the federal government's disaster efforts, ensuring a more coordinated and effective response to crises nationwide. President Carter's vision helped build a framework for better disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, guiding our work today.

His legacy of service, both as president and beyond, continues to inspire emergency managers and humanitarians worldwide.

Thank you, President Carter, for your leadership and for making a lasting impact on disaster management and the lives of countless individuals.



L0363 Multi-Hazard Emergency Management for Higher Education

April 29 – May 1, 2025

This Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) course is designed to be delivered to **teams** of campus personnel who are responsible for creating, reviewing, implementing and exercising emergency operations plans (EOPs). The target audience for this course is people who have traditional response or strategic experience but minimal experience in emergency management planning. The three-day course is primarily interactive presentations coupled with numerous individual and group exercises.

Topics to be covered include:

- An overview of emergency management
- Identifying hazards and using a risk assessment process
- Managing your Emergency Operations Center (EOC) using ICS (Incident Command System)
- Partnering with your internal and external community
- Developing and/or revising your Emergency Operations Plan
- Training and testing the plans
- Recovery considerations

For a successful L0363 delivery, a sufficient number of teams from different institutions and range of job positions within each team is needed. The target team size is 4-8 members. The composition of the participating campus team is decided by each institution attending and should be selected from these positions.

Campus Staff and Personnel

Campus Administrators	Food/Dining Services Director
Office of Emergency Management/Planning	Office for Student Affairs
Risk Manager	Employee/Occupational Health
Public Information Officer	Counseling Services
Security and/or Public Safety Officer	Information Technology
Office of Facilities Management	Faculty and/or Student Representatives

External Stakeholders

Community first responders (Fire, Emergency Medical Services)
City/County emergency management
Community law enforcement

There is no fee for attending this course; however, participants will pay their own travel expenses.

To reserve your spot in the class, please contact Austin Brake at abrake@unomaha.edu by **April 16, 2025**. Please include each attendee's name, contact information (email and phone), organization name, and job position.

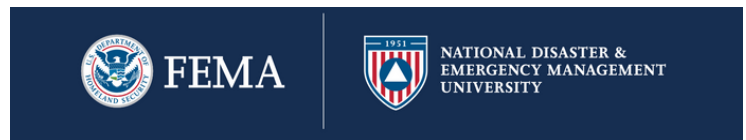
This course offers a unique opportunity to enhance preparedness and response capabilities within the higher education setting. During the course you will engage in collaborative problem-solving and develop actionable strategies to improve your emergency and crisis management for your university/college.

Course Details:

Dates: April 29 – May 1, 2025 (must be able to attend all three days)

Location: University of Nebraska at Omaha

Cost: Free (Travel expenses are the responsibility of participants)



Upcoming Advanced PIO Course Deliveries – IAEM Region 7

The Advanced Public Information Officer (PIO) Course – L0388 is being offered in two locations across Region 7 this summer. This free, in-person training is ideal for experienced PIOs looking to build on foundational skills and strengthen their crisis communication strategies.

Session 1: Nebraska

- Dates: June 2–6, 2025
- Location: Lincoln, Nebraska
- Registration Contact:
- jhitchcock@poncatribene.gov
- Note: Plenty of open seats available — secure your spot early!

Session 2: Missouri

- Dates: July 14–18, 2025
- Location: Lincoln University
- 820 Chestnut Street
- Jefferson City, MO 65101
- Training Contact:
- Robert Klick – robert.klick@sema.dps.mo.gov

Prerequisites are required, but there is ample time to complete them before the course. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your skills and connect with PIO peers across Region 7.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
 NATIONAL EMERGENCY TRAINING CENTER • EMMITSBURG, MD 21727

E0388 Advanced Public Information Officer

<p>Course Dates: January 13–17, 2025 April 14–18, 2025 July 28–August 1, 2025</p> <p>Travel Dates: Travel days are Sunday before the course begins and Saturday after the course ends.</p> <p>Course Length: This course is 5 days in length* <small>*Some pre-course work is required prior to the training course.</small></p> <p>Location: Emergency Management Institute (EMI) National Emergency Training Center (NETC) Emmitsburg, Maryland</p> <p>Course Description: The Advanced Public Information Officer (APIO) Course teaches participants additional skills for use during escalating incidents, including strategic communications and incident action planning as they relate to Joint Information Center (JIC) operations.</p> <p>Course Goal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide participants with the knowledge and skills to establish, manage, and work within a JIC. 2. Provide participants the opportunity to apply advanced public information skills during a multi-day full functional exercise. 3. Provide participants the opportunity to apply advanced public information skills in the short- and long-term recovery phases of an incident. 	<p>4. Encourage participants to improve their processes and ensure every action has a measurable relevance for each identified audience, including senior leadership.</p> <p>Prerequisites: Participants must have a minimum of 2 years of public information experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IS29: A Public Information Officer Awareness Management • IS100.c: Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS) (or ICS course for specific specialty: healthcare, public works, etc.) • IS200.c: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response • IS201: Forms Used for the Development of the Incident Action Plan (waived if ICS-300 is completed). • IS247.b: Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) for Alert Originators or IS251.a: Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) for Alerting Authorities • IS700.b: National Incident Management System, An Introduction • IS800.d: National Response Framework, An Introduction • E/ILJK0105: Public Information Basic (no substitutions or waivers) <p>Additional Course Requirements: Full commitment and dedicated time required for the duration of the course.</p> <p>Participants must bring a laptop or tablet with internet capabilities for daily course activities (cell phones can be used as a secondary device, not a primary device).</p>
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**Randy Pommenville, President
IAEM-USA Region 7**

