



Speaker Guidance

IAEM Annual Conference

Nov. 6 - 12, 2026

Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center

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**IAEM Plugged In Webinars and Virtual
Conference**

Call for Speakers

Opens
Jan. 9, 2026



Closes Feb. 13, 2026
at
11:59:59 PM CST



Selection Notices
Sent by
May 1, 2026

All Selected Speakers will be required to use the IAEM slide template to submit their final presentation.

Conference Dates	
Early Edition Speaker Series	TBD
Pre-Conference Training and Symposiums	November 6 – 8, 2026
Breakout, Spotlight, and General Sessions	November 9 – 11, 2026
EMvision Talks®	November 10, 2026
Post-Conference Training	November 12, 2026
IAEM Plugged In	Virtual Conference – Spring every year

Non-Commercial Nature of Sessions

IAEM provides an opportunity for open dialogue and creative exchange of ideas among participants. Speakers may not endorse brand names or specific products in their presentation. *Under no circumstances may this platform be used as a place for direct promotion of a speaker's product or service. Any presenter who violates this policy jeopardizes his or her opportunity to present at future IAEM conferences.*

Speaking Opportunities Available

Speaking opportunities include:

- Live appearances at the in-person Annual Conference,
- Virtual appearances:
 - As an Early Edition Speaker before the Annual Conference, and
 - IAEM Plugged In 2026 Spring Virtual Conference.

Speaker applicants will be asked, as outlined later in this document, to choose one of the following:

- All speaking opportunities both in-person and virtual,
- Only in-person speaking opportunities, or
- Only virtual speaking opportunities.

Theme: Charting through Preparedness: Anchored in Resilience

The Conference Committee requests presentations that are specifically developed for the IAEM audience and for the current year's theme: Charting through Preparedness: Anchored in Resilience. The theme is for concept but does not need to be used in your presentation title.

Each year we provide the latest information and best practices in education, training and leadership for the entire profession, and those allied professionals that attend our conference. We strive to have the very best conference, with the best speakers presenting the widest range of topics, which assist in educating everyone from the student to the new emergency manager, from the new leaders to the seasoned veteran. Whether an attendee is coming for their first conference or their 25th, we want to always provide the best possible experience, one that is new, engaging, and refreshing to the attendee. We encourage you to submit, especially if you have areas of expertise, or research that assist us with expanding this great profession. **We also want to make sure that we are educating and training from a global aspect as an international organization, we understand that emergency management is global in nature and local in response. Whether you are an international member, or have experiences to share from a global perspective, we are looking to highlight our international responsibilities.** We need to study the past, live in the present, and be prepared for whatever the future hands us. Whether you are an emergency manager, or an attendee in a related or collaborating profession, the sessions IAEM offers cover the entire spectrum of what we do, and what we are expected to do every day in partnerships with our community and collaborations

with our community partners. We can only provide this if we have a wide range of topics from a wide range of speakers.

Some of the topic areas for your consideration are listed below, but do not let this list limit you in your submission.

Emergency Management Charting through Preparedness: Anchored in Resilience **for our Global Citizens:** Over the past several years we have witnessed unpredictable and unprecedented events that have drastically impacted the field of emergency management. We continue to learn new technology and new ways of collaborating and have adapted the ways in which we lead. You, the profession of emergency management, along with all of our allied professionals are the heroes to our citizens and our communities, assisting with preparedness for better resiliency.

As we move to the next step in our collective journey, what actions are we doing in training, education, preparedness and leadership to demonstrate the true professional nature of our professions. How has your work environment changed? How are you approaching training and exercises? What planning activities have been of great value or need to be included or updated? What does recovery look like from the eyes of a emergency manager, and from the eyes of our citizens? How are you addressing the latest concerns when it comes to our vulnerable populations and those most in need? How are you partnering with others in your community? What “best practices” in leadership are you using that the rest of us can learn from and implement? How can we be more resilient as a global society?

Can you identify the opportunities for growth, development, change, and synergy as we move into this everchanging future world of emergency management? What are some of the best leadership practices you have encountered? How should emergency managers, both new and seasoned, prepare for the future of our profession?

The Diverse Nature of Emergency Management: We have experienced many benefits as the field of emergency management grows and becomes more diverse. We’ve made progress, but there is still more to do to encourage and sustain diversity that matches the world we live in, and the disaster we face, while creating a prepared and more resilient global society. What are the best practices around hiring and employee retention? What are the latest resiliency practices for understanding and working with those with access and functional needs? How do we work with our communities, regardless of where we practice our profession? Is rural emergency management versus urban emergency management versus university emergency management or international emergency management really different? Are we not all preparedness and resiliency professionals? How can we learn from the diversity of our world and members to make sure we are assisting all in their greatest times of need? What challenges do we face as we move to increase our knowledge base, experience, and expertise?

A Profession of Collaborators, Coordinators, Communicators, and Cooperators: The past few years have shown us that the importance of partnerships, collaboration, and best practices cannot be overstated. With limited resources, more global interconnections, and greater challenges, we must work efficiently and effectively. A

prepared community is a resilient community is a SAFE community.

How do we work within the confines of grant funding and subsequent requirements? What have you done to build successful partnerships with private industry and other important stakeholders in your communities? How have you adjusted to perform within new requirements and a changing grant landscape. How do we collaborate to ascend from private sector competitor to private sector partner? Who are our stakeholders and allied partners? What do you wish you had known about collaborating with others that would have helped you solve problems in your community before, during, or after a disaster? Where do you find yourself being continually challenged? What are some innovative, outside-the-box, or throw away the box, ideas you want to share about collaboration, coordination, communication, or cooperation?

Global Perspectives, Partnerships and Nuances in Emergency Management: In the past decade, as a profession, we have gone to great lengths to prepare and protect our communities. All around the world, we have encountered issues that have tested us at very high levels, increasing the stress load and mental health issues within our profession. We have had major disasters and technological disasters; civil unrest and community divide; and the list is endless. Disasters do not know borders. Around the world these events are putting us to greater and greater tests each year. Are you an international emergency manager? Have you worked with international emergency managers, or worked at global disasters? What is it that our global champions do that is the same as we do in the United States? What do you as a global emergency manager do differently? What issues do you have that will be great lessons for all emergency managers around the globe, who spend each day working at disasters, big and small?

This brief list is not all-inclusive of what we do, and what our allied partners do on a daily basis. As we continue to grow this conference and we continue to grow our identity and the awareness of this profession, what have you been doing that others can do to further our cause? There are topics that many of us have not thought about, but that are essential for presentations to our attendees. If you have a presentation that will help us continue to grow our professions, please submit it so we can see and hear you in Long Beach. We are a profession of collaborators, and we don't want you to later think, "I wish I would have," so please do submit.

Breakout sessions last 60 minutes. Structure your presentation to allow time for Q&A within the 60 minutes allocated.

Online Application Tips

- **Read all instructions carefully.**
- Complete all fields – incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
- ***There is not a save function*** – gather all documents and wording for requested fields before you begin. It is recommended you write it all out first in a Word

document and then cut and paste it into the online application when all wording is finalized.

- Character field limits with spaces:
 - Abstracts: 1500; Bios: 1200; Session introduction: 600 per speaker up to 1500 per session. Shorter introductions are usually better.
 - SUGGESTION: **Do a word count before submitting the text** to avoid problems and delays with submitting. On a Mac, click tools. On a PC, click the Review tab, then click word count in the proofing section. If you are still having difficulties, convert to plain text.
- Double-check for typos before you submit.
- See Section: “How to Submit an Online Submission Form,” below for steps and fields required for every section.

Scoring Applications

Applications are scored based on:

- A complete and accurate application – **INCOMPLETE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE REVIEWED.**
- Quality of submitted presentation.
- Speaker experience and qualifications related to the topic.
- Compelling presentation, a “story” that will engage the audience.
- Reminder, we have conference committee members reviewing these submissions. Please be clear and accurate, proofread, and check for typos, as this affects the reviewers when they review your submission. As professionals, making sure we have professional presentations means professional submissions.
- Adherence to the 2026 overall conference theme, “Charting through Preparedness: Anchored in Resilience.” As mentioned above, the “Theme” does not need to be in your title. Short titles read better and are more appealing.

Financial Support

- Complimentary basic registration for one speaker per session. *
 - All co-speakers receive a discounted speaker rate.
- (Speaker registration includes all sessions and pre/post-conference training that do not have a separate registration fee.)
- * Does not include tickets to the Welcome Party and Presidential Banquet*

Since IAEM is a nonprofit organization, we ask that you please seek financial support from your individual organizations. If you are self-funded or not covered by an employer, a travel stipend may be available up to \$500 *per session* (not per speaker) for travel expenses. If you require financial assistance, check the box on your online submission. The request for financial assistance does not impact the

selection process.

How to Submit an Online Submission Form

1. Navigate to <https://www.iaem.org/>
 - a. If you are an IAEM member or non-member that has attended a conference, submitted a previous application, has or is working on certification, or signed up for any IAEM activity, log into the website. (If you do not remember your password, you may retrieve it by providing the email used previously with IAEM.)
 - b. If you are not a member and have never interacted with IAEM you will need to create a guest account.
 - i. Select Login at top left.
 - ii. Select Register to create a guest account.
2. Once logged in, click on the Dashboard tab of the menu ribbon, then click on "Membership Dashboard" on the left-hand side menu and select "Speaker Submission."
3. The submission form has 5 pages: Speaker Information, Submission Information, Additional Speakers, Additional Details, and Speaker Agreement.
4. Speaker Information: Complete any missing information. Fields marked with an * are required. **Fields required:**
 - a. Prefix, first and last name.
 - b. Job title, department, and organization where employed.
 - c. Complete mailing address.
 - d. Work and cell phone numbers, and email address.
 - e. Bio (maximum number of characters including spaces = 1200).Once complete, click "next" at the bottom right-hand side of the page.
5. Submission Information: Complete all fields regarding your presentation:
 - a. Title (100 maximum characters, including spaces), shorter is better. The "theme" is not required nor preferred in the title.
 - b. Abstract (1500 maximum characters, including spaces)
 - c. What will the audience get from your presentation? (e.g., objectives, takeaways, lessons learned, etc.) (1500 maximum characters, including spaces).
 - d. Session Intro (used by speaker liaison to introduce the session and speaker(s) to the audience) (600 maximum characters per speaker, including spaces or up to 1500 characters per session). Again, shorter is better, allowing you to get into your presentation quickly.
 - e. Special audio-visual requirements for your presentation. Note: Standard setup includes: projector, screen, laptop, and clicker. **NO Internet is provided.** (600 maximum characters, including spaces).Once complete, click "next" at the bottom right-hand side of the page.
6. Additional Speakers:
 - a. If there is only one speaker for this session, click "next" at the bottom right-hand side of the page.

- b. If there is more than one speaker, click on "Add Additional Speaker" and then use the magnifying glass icon in the "First Name" field to search. You can search by last name, email and/or organization. Fill in at least one field then click "Search for Speaker". Select the speaker by clicking the radio button to the left of the speaker's name. The speaker's information from the IAEM database will populate. You will need to add any missing required information on this page marked with an *.
 - c. ***After searching for additional speakers, if you don't find a record for the co-speaker in your session***, click the "+" sign to the right of the magnifying glass. This will populate a blank speaker information form for you to complete. *Refer to "Speaker Information" fields required in item #4 above for data needed for additional speaker fields.*
 - d. If you have more additional speakers, repeat the steps above until you have added all speakers.
 - e. When you are done adding additional speakers, click "next".
7. Additional Details: Complete this page with information from your past 2 speaking experiences and provide 2 references. **Fields required:**
 - a. Date, location, audience size, event name, duration, and presentation title.
 - b. Name, phone number, and email address of references, at least one preferably a member of IAEM.

Once complete, click "next" at the bottom right-hand side of the page.
8. Speaker Agreement: Click the radio buttons to agree to IAEM's speaker policies. IAEM is offering both in-person and virtual speaking opportunities. Choose one of the following:
 - a. This speaking application can be considered for presentation opportunities at the in-person IAEM Annual Conference and for virtual appearances in any of the following: As an Early Edition Speaker before the Annual Conference, and IAEM Plugged In Virtual Conference each Spring.
 - b. This speaking application is only for presentation opportunities at the in-person IAEM Annual Conference.
 - c. This speaking application is only for virtual appearances in any of the following: As an Early Edition Speaker before the Annual Conference, and IAEM Plugged In Virtual Conference each Spring.
9. Once you have completed all sections, you **must** click "Preview Submission" before submitting your speaking proposal. If you are missing required fields or there are errors, a pop-up box will note the page and section that is missing. Complete the fields and/or correct the errors.
10. Click "Submit" to submit your proposal. You will receive a Submission Confirmation page.

Contact Information

IAEM Conference Committee:

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**Thank you for your interest and support of the IAEM
conference and our profession!**