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## News Release

### IAEM Announces the Winner of the 2018 IAEM-Oceania Public Awareness Award

**Oct. 18, 2018 (Falls Church, Va.)** - The IAEM-Oceania Awards Committee and the IAEM-Global Awards & Recognition Work Group of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) are pleased to announce the winner of the 2018 IAEM-Oceania Public Awareness Award. The award winners will be recognized at the IAEM 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & EMEX, Oct. 19-24, 2018, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The winner of the **2018 IAEM-Oceania Public Awareness Award** is the **Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO)**, New Zealand, for its Community Emergency Hub program and guide. The Community Emergency Hub concept and guide has completely changed the way the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO) practices emergency management. Through a facilitated process led by WREMO, local residents, businesses and NGOs populate local Hub guides with knowledge of resources and vulnerabilities specific to their suburb. This information is used by residents to plan and exercise how their suburb will work together to solve five common challenges posed by an emergency event such as providing checking on people and providing assistance with medical issues, shelter, water, food and sanitation.

More than 130 Hubs have been pre-identified on buildings and promoted as rallying points for communities come together during a response. The concept has measurably reset the expectations of Wellington communities about their role and the level of support they can expect from emergency services. Further, it has changed the mind-sets of emergency management staff regarding the existing capacities and capabilities that communities bring to the table as partners in the response.

The challenge for emergency managers is to link the activities of the official response to this community response in a way that channels the energy of the public and supports their efforts of self-efficacy. WREMO's Community Emergency Hub model addresses this challenge by providing communities a known rallying point in their suburb to self-organise their efforts and address local challenges posed by the emergency using the resources in their own backyard. Each of the 133 Hubs connects to the EOC via a VHF radio and an email address to the Intelligence desk. Further, emergency planning and EOC training has been reoriented to support the efforts of community through this model.

**The IAEM Public Awareness Awards** recognize outstanding public awareness programs or public education products related to emergency management, homeland security, and/or disaster preparedness. Learn about the IAEM Awards Competition at [www.iaem.com/Awards](http://www.iaem.com/Awards).

*IAEM is a nonprofit professional organization representing more than 4,600 emergency management and homeland security professionals for local communities, state and federal disaster officials, 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/Associate Emergency Manager program; annual scholarships; a comprehensive monthly newsletter; and more.*

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