Welcome to Spring, Region 7! Hopefully it will start feeling more like it soon. This is the first edition of what I hope is many to come from IAEM-USA Region 7 members highlighting what is important to emergency managers in our region. I look forward to sharing upcoming opportunities and events to ensure our region is able to face the challenges associated with our work.

As you know, information sharing, collaboration and cooperation is vital for success, and this is what I envision these newsletters providing for all of us! We can learn from each other by sharing lessons learned, training opportunities, exercises, conferences, special events, plans, and more.

Fortunately, our Vice President, Rick Shellenbarger has volunteered to serve as the Editor of this newsletter and he has provided a great forum for us to share information throughout our four states. As disasters don’t recognize political boundaries and we become more borderless in our planning and responses, regionalization has become more prevalent. Sharing the great work occurring in each of our states and jurisdictions is a key element to strengthening our work and programs.

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to attend the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management (NAEM) Annual conference where I met a number of long-time IAEM members and heard about the great work they are doing in Nebraska. Their statewide Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest is an amazing initiative which should be reviewed by all as a best practice. The IAEM-USA R7 leadership team hopes to attend more state conferences in an effort to strengthen membership and learn more about the needs of emergency managers in our region.

Our programs, trainings, and working relationships can only get stronger! We hope this newsletter will provide an opportunity for everyone to reflect not only what has been accomplished, but also advance our profession by promoting the principles of emergency management; to serve our members by providing information, networking and professional development opportunities.

We hope you will share information with us to send out in the newsletter and please don’t hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance in any way. Have a great spring!

2018 Conference Dates to Remember

- MOEMA Conference April 18, 2018 – Washington University, St. Louis, MO
- Iowa Emergency Management Association Conference May 9-11, 2018 – Wahpeton, IA
- 66th Annual IAEM Conference October 19-24, 2018 – Grand Rapids, MI
This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program and is considered one of the pillars of support for the emergency management program in the United States.

A 2018 report entitled “Emergency Management Performance Grants: Providing Returns on a Nation’s Investment” was released jointly by the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) and the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) detailing the return on investment realized by the grant program.

Of interest is the fact that 27 percent of responding jurisdictions accomplish the work with less than a full-time emergency manager, and 34 percent of tasks were carried out in jurisdictions with populations of less than 25,000. In 2017, there were 35,109 reported events that likely would have exceeded state and local capabilities without an effective emergency management system.

EMPG supported 5,291 statewide, local and tribal discussion-based and operational-based exercises that benefited almost three million participants.

To see more information in the current report, please visit the IAEM website at www.iaem.com.

FEMA’s PREPTalks continue to unveil issues as it pertains to the many aspects of emergency management now and into the future. Each PREPTalk consists of videos and presentations with a question and answer session. Available topics include:

- Land Use for Community Resilience
- Who’s at Risk? Rapid Mapping of Potential Hazard Exposure
- Social Change in Disaster Mitigation and Recovery
- The Next Pandemic: Lessons from History
- Modernizing Public Warning Messaging

Future talks will cover disaster risk in developing countries, unthinkable lessons from survivors, and financial literacy. IAEM is one of five partners hosting these talks.

Please go to the following website https://www.fema.gov/preptalks to access these valuable learning sessions.

At the most recent NACo Legislative Conference held in Washington DC March 3-7, 2018, a two-part session on Disaster Response and Recovery was held.

Part one identifies how key community stakeholders can help counties maximize their effectiveness immediately following a crisis event. Part two focused on how strong local-state-federal partnerships can help a community strengthen its physical and economic resilience in the months following a natural disaster. The sessions included developing partnerships needed as a preparedness goal before the disaster, the importance of emergency managers, the need for planning, identifying case studies and personal experience, review hazard mitigations plans, and how to help build resilience in communities for safety and security.

Nick Crossley, Director of Emergency Management & Home and Security for Hamilton County, Ohio and President of IAEM- USA, was one of the audience attendees and reiterated that elected officials should hire a professional an emergency manager, support them and their program, and encourage the emergency managers to look at disasters that have happened elsewhere and improve upon their planning.

The Livestream for these sessions can viewed here: http://www.naco.org/resources/livestream-disaster-response-and-recovery
GOES 16 Satellite Short Wave IR Imagery

In an effort to assist on wildfire conditions, the GOES 16 satellite has been added as a fire detection tool that can be used in responses and situational awareness. While it is ideal for general guidance and strategic planning, tactical responses will still need confirmation.

http://weather.cod.edu/satrad/exper/?parms=regional-northcentral-07-48-1-100-1&checked=map

Go to the website and click on the desired regional sector to show your state, and then click on the Product Overlays button to add features to assist in locations such as county boundaries, highways, rivers, etc. Areas showing fires will appear as black spots to help early detection and assistance with response. In addition, wind speeds and wind directions can assist on determining the potential direction and intensity of wildfires.

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Snapshot (1989 to Present)

FEMA recently unveiled an interactive web mapping tool that provides information on hazard mitigation assistance received by regions, states, and counties. The following snapshots are provided as examples of the information contained in the mapping tool.

https://fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b9d25d1b3d8347ae0b84fac9d30c3f0e
30 Year Anniversary of Hazard Mitigation Assistance Timeline:
Three Decades of Obligated Funds

1988
- The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) helps communities devastated by disaster to build back stronger
- First mitigation project: purchased shore land to prevent future flooding in St. George, Utah
- First saferoom is built in Iowa to keep people safe during extreme weather events
- Community Rating System (CRS) recognizes the reduced risk in communities that protect against floods
- First tribal project

1998
- The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Program provides funding for activities that reduce or eliminate losses from flooding

1999
- 51B in obligated grants

2000
- The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program helps communities reduce risk from future disasters
- First PDM tribal grantee

2003
- First tribal government, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan
- CRS: 1,000 participating communities
- First state with Enhanced State Mitigation Plan

2005
- 56B in obligated grants
- National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) Multihazard Mitigation Council (MMC) determines that on average, every $1 spent on mitigation results in a $4 return of avoided future losses

2007
- Properties mitigated: 100,000

2010
- 10B in obligated grants

2013
- First HMSP tribal grantee
- Program Administration by States (PAS) gives greater authority to states, territories, and tribes to administer grants

2014
- The Unified Federal Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) Review provides a framework for handling EHP requirements during disaster recovery
- The Fire Management Assistance Grant Program (FMAG) provides grants for equipment, supplies, and personnel costs for the mitigation, management, and control of fires on public or private forest land or grassland

2016
- Insurance and Mitigation Readiness Division

2018
- 51B in obligated grants
- Properties mitigated: 131,000
- NIBS MMC determines that on average, every $1 spent on mitigation results in a $6 return of avoided future losses
- CRS: approximately 1,500 participating communities

LEGISLATIVE MILESTONES
- 1998: Robert T. Stafford Disaster and Emergency Assistance Act
- 1999: Hazard Mitigation and Relocation Assistance Act
- 2000: Disaster Mitigation Act
- 2006: Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act
- 2012: Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act
- 2013: Sandy Recovery Improvement Act
- 2014: Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act
IAEM-USA Standing Committees, Ad Hoc Committees, and Caucuses

Much of the important work of IAEM and its members is carried out in the dozens of Committees, Caucuses and Work Groups operating under the auspices of the IAEM Councils. I encourage you to explore the work of these Committees and Groups at http://www.iaem.com/page.cfm?p=groups/us-committees and get involved. If you’d like to join a group, please email the leadership of any Committee, Caucus, or Work Group and let them know that you’d like to participate and tell them how you can contribute to or learn from its important work. The challenges we face, as a profession and as a nation, are simply too great for us NOT to respond!

### IAEM-USA Standing Committees

- Awards & Recognition
- Bylaws
- Certification
- Conference
- Digital Engagement
- Government Affairs
- Membership & Marketing
- Nominations & Credentials
- Training & Education

### IAEM-USA Caucuses

- Access & Inclusion
- Children and Disasters
- Climate, Water & Weather
- Emerging Technology
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Federal Sector Emergency Managers
- Healthcare
- Public-Private Partnership
- Tribal Affairs
- Uniformed Services
- Universities & Colleges

### IAEM-USA Ad Hoc Committees & Advisory Boards

- Disaster Cost Recovery & Finance
- Diversity
- EMEX Advisory Board
- State EM Associations
- Strategic Planning

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Over 250 elected officials recently signed a Flood-Ready Infrastructure Statement of Principles produced by The PEW Charitable Trusts in support of minimizing future flood damage, reducing the impact and costly cycle of rebuilding, thus saving taxpayer dollars. The three main bullets of the statement included: Improving resiliency requirements for buildings and infrastructure systems built before and the use of natural defenses in planning and preparedness; and, Reducing unsustainable development in high-risk areas.

Elected officials signing the statement included: Mayor Stuart Boley (Lawrence, KS); Mayor Shane McCampbell (Burlington, IA); Mayor Diana Broderson (Muscatine, IA); Mayor Josh Pope (Elkader, IA); Mayor Bob Scott (Sioux City, IA); Mayor Jim Throgmorton (Iowa City, IA); Rep. Ponka-We Victors (D-District 103, KS); Rep. Annie Kuether (D-District 55, KS); and, Mayor John Lundell (Coralville, IA).

# State Emergency Management Agencies in Region VII

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>Coordination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>HSEMD</td>
<td>Mark Schouten</td>
<td>Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department</td>
<td>Has been working to make Iowa more prepared for disasters since it began as the State Civil Defense Agency in 1965. The focus of emergency management and the hazards faced by Iowans may have changed in some ways since that time, but what hasn’t changed is our commitment to making our state more prepared for any emergency or disaster.</td>
<td>Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Department was directed by the Governor to coordinate Iowa’s homeland security efforts. While this broadened our mission, our underlying priority of ensuring Iowa is prepared and ready to respond to any disaster drives all we do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>Division of Emergency Management</td>
<td>Major General Lee Tafanelli</td>
<td>The Division of Emergency Management is the arm of the Adjutant General's Department that provides mitigation advocacy, planning requirements and guidance, response coordination, and administration of recovery programs for the civil sector of the State, regardless of the type of hazards. Each county is required to maintain a disaster agency responsible for emergency preparedness and coordination of response to disasters.</td>
<td>The State and local governments work together to provide training to local emergency management and response personnel, along with periodic exercises to test the State and local emergency management systems.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>State Emergency Management Agency</td>
<td>Ernie Rhodes</td>
<td>The State Emergency Management Agency, a division of the Department of Public Safety, is the state of Missouri’s coordinating agency for disaster response.</td>
<td>SEMA works with other state departments and agencies, local governments, the federal government and volunteer and faith-based organizations to ensure coordinated and efficient management during large scale emergencies and disasters.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)</td>
<td>Major General Daryl Bohac</td>
<td>The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is part of the Military Department. The state's Adjutant General, Major General Daryl Bohac, serves as the director of the agency as well as the commanding officer of the Army and Air National Guard.</td>
<td>The NEMA is charged by state statute to reduce the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska from the damage, injury and loss of life and property resulting from natural, technological or man-made disasters and emergencies.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
State Emergency Management Associations in Region VII

The IEMA Executive Committee consists of a President, Vice President, Past President, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition, each of Iowa’s six emergency management districts each elects a person to represent their district on the Executive Committee. A complete list of the executive committee members and district representatives can be found on the IEMA website at iowaEMA.com.

The Iowa Certified Emergency Manager Program (IACEM) program is designed to provide a method of professional certification for Iowa EM professionals and also a tool by which persons occupying a coordinator’s position can be evaluated. The IACEM program is completely voluntary and is in no way tied to IEMA membership.

Kansas Emergency Management Association (KEMA) is a network of leaders dedicated to providing excellence in emergency management for Kansas. It offers networking opportunities among local emergency managers as well as opportunities to interact with state and national emergency management professionals and other affiliated individuals, governmental agencies and interested private groups.

KEMA developed a certification program that would increase the visibility and scope of emergency managers’ positions and the commensurate requirement to ensure that some mechanism was in place to evaluate persons who occupied emergency management positions. Partner organizations include many federal agencies as well as private industry groups such as the Partnership for Emergency Planning.

The MOEMA is a non-profit statewide organization of emergency preparedness and response practitioners with the common goal of improving public safety in emergencies. MOEMA was originally formed as the Missouri Emergency Preparedness Association (MEPA) by a group of local civil defense directors in 1960 who recognized the need to expand and incorporate personnel in emergency service organizations into a cohesive and productive association.

Membership is open to anyone involved in emergency preparedness or response activities. Individuals with local, county, state and federal government agencies, business and industry, and volunteer organizations are eligible to join. MOEMA’s strength relies on a broad-based membership of individuals dedicated to emergency preparedness.

The purpose of NAEM is to serve the emergency managers throughout Nebraska by: Encourage the development of disaster resistant communizes to reduce the effect of disasters on life and property; Provide a forum for creative and innovative problem-solving on emergency management issues; Foster informed decision-making on public policy in the emergency management arena; Provide means of networking opportunities between individuals involved in the many different facades of emergency management and Homeland Security; and, Development and delivery of educational programs to the general public.
In today’s competitive employment environment, any edge you have over another person seeking the same position can make the difference between success and frustration. For those employed, ensuring that your skills are sharp and your knowledge base is deep is a key to continued success. Whether you are seeking employment, or currently employed, the Certified Emergency Manager designation is a major career-enhancing credential. IAEM is the only organization that offers a certification for individual emergency managers. The Certified Emergency Manager designation is a nationally and internationally recognized professional certification for emergency managers.

Visit our website often, so that you can learn everything you’ll need to know about the ultimate credential in emergency management, including details on starting the credentialing process, an outline of the specific requirements, a FAQs page, and additional resources to help you successfully complete your certification.

Disclaimer

IAEM’s Associate Emergency Manager (AEM) and Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) certifications are not in any manner intended to serve as a warranty, representation, guarantee or promise with respect to the quality of performance of or procedures utilized by certified emergency managers in their work. The certification program is intended only to establish education, training and experience criteria relevant to emergency management, and to certify that the IAEM certified individual has met the established criteria. IAEM specifically disclaims any and all liability for any third party claims, actions, causes of action, judgments, liabilities, monetary losses, or injuries or damages to persons or property arising out of or resulting from the services performed by or any errors or omissions on the part of any IAEM Associate Emergency Manager (AEM) or Certified Emergency Manager (CEM).

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