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## News Release

### **“IAEM Reimagined” Virtual Event Replaces the In-Person Conference in November**

**July 21, 2020 (Falls Church, Va.)** – Due to the continuously evolving circumstances surrounding COVID-19, the IAEM-USA Annual Conference, scheduled to be held in November in Long Beach, California, will be produced as a virtual event. IAEM members offered input for this decision by survey. Further, IAEM-USA Board carefully analyzed the current state and projections for the coronavirus pandemic.

“This was a difficult decision, but one that made sense given current events,” stated IAEM-USA President Teri Smith, CEM, CPM. “We took into consideration the various responsibilities that many of our members, speakers and attendees have related to COVID-19. Additionally, the Board acknowledged that increasing travel restrictions (state-to-state and international) created barriers for many traditional attendees to participate in-person in California this year.”

#### **Virtual Conference – IAEM Reimagined**

The 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & EMEX is being reimagined as a virtual event to be held Nov. 16-18, 2020, to include all the bells and whistles of an in-person event. “Our goal is to make the IAEM 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference as close as we can get to our premiere in-person event,” stated Mike Gavin, Conference Committee chair. “We have much work to do to make this happen, but with the best staff and dedicated Conference Committee volunteers, I expect this event to exceed the expectations as currently envisioned.”

“While nothing can replace the live experience of a professional gathering, IAEM’s new plan will actually give attendees access to *more* content than they are able to attend in-person,” explained IAEM CEO Elizabeth Armstrong, MAM, CAE. “Recordings of every session after the event will allow review at each individual’s own schedule.”

IAEM has been planning for a potential change to a virtual conference and the following event details have been finalized:

- The Annual Conference will still be held November 16-18, 2020. Please continue to save those dates.
- The theme of the conference is IAEM 2020: Visioning the Future of Emergency Management.
- The schedule for the conference will remain as consistent with previous years as possible, with the addition of a COVID-19 focus throughout in the breakout, spotlight and plenary sessions.
- IAEM will continue to provide top-notch speakers with the latest information to share in emergency management and allow for extended live question and answer sessions.

- There will still be plenty of opportunities for networking with colleagues, friends and prospects in the virtual platform.
- EMEX, IAEM's exhibit hall, will be virtual with live meeting rooms and dedicated show hours. Exhibitors will have individual branded video conference rooms, to show presentations, products and even jump into one-to-one private discussions.
- IAEM's EMvision Talks will still go on! This featured event has become a mainstay as it continues to engage and educate our audience.
- The Poster Showcase will be presented in the virtual platform with interactive features.
- CEUs for IAEM's Certification program will be offered for those participating.
- Registration fees have been significantly reduced to help with the budget cuts we all are experiencing and to allow for multiple people participating from every organization.

During the next few weeks, the migration of the conference to the virtual platform will be finalized. Follow the progress and see updates on the IAEM Conference site at [www.iaem.org/usconf](http://www.iaem.org/usconf).

*IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 5,000 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 program; annual scholarships; a comprehensive monthly newsletter; and more.*

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