



Contact: Dawn M. Shiley, MA, CAE
IAEM Communications & Marketing Director
703-538-3542

IAEM Headquarters
201 Park Washington Court
Falls Church, VA
22046-4527 USA
www.iaem.org

News Release

IAEM-USA Announces the 2024 Emergency Manager of the Year Award

Oct. 22, 2024 (Falls Church, Va.) – The Awards & Recognition Committee of the U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA) has selected Thomas Walmsley, CEM, FPEM, as the IAEM-USA 2024 Emergency Manager of the Year. The award will be presented at the President’s Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Nov. 20 at the 72nd IAEM Annual Conference & EMEX in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Thomas Walmsley, CEM, FPEM IAEM-USA Emergency Manager of the Year

Mr. Thomas Walmsley’s remarkable achievements and unwavering commitment to emergency management epitomize the qualities sought after by this prestigious award. As the emergency management director for Bernalillo County, New Mexico, Mr. Walmsley demonstrates exceptional leadership and forward-thinking initiatives, harnesses advanced technologies and fosters collaboration among public and private sector partners. His visionary approach has significantly enhanced the county’s emergency preparedness and response capabilities, benefiting the region.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Walmsley has undertaken a comprehensive restructuring of the office personnel, directing their focus toward areas to ensure the development and maintenance of thorough emergency plans. His leadership in regional planning initiatives encouraged collaboration and coordination across different sectors and elevated the resilience of the entire region.

Mr. Walmsley standardized a process for collecting information from all the subject matter experts beyond holding meetings. These range from interactive document-sharing sites to workshops to tabletop exercises to gather data while keeping stakeholders actively involved. This initiative to share his planning and operation documents widely created a repository of best practices and resources that emergency managers utilize. This innovative approach has improved the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency management practices across the region.

Mr. Walmsley advocates tailored planning and response strategies to meet diverse and complex challenges. He emphasizes that equity and inclusion are not mere checkboxes but foundational elements of effective emergency management. His dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion in emergency management has been exemplary. He championed the creation of New Mexico's first access and Functional Needs Shelter Trailer. His efforts to serve all community members effectively, tailoring strategies to meet diverse needs, have been commendable.

His commitment to community engagement, public education campaigns, and outreach programs has significantly improved the readiness of community residents and heightened awareness of emergency preparedness. In addition to his impactful work within Bernalillo County, Mr. Walmsley has set a new standard for emergency preparedness statewide through his endeavors as an educator. His dedication to teaching various emergency management courses and programs with practical relevance showcases his deep commitment to educating the next generation of emergency managers.

Mr. Walmsley's voluntary contributions outside his regular duties, such as volunteering with the community as a school board member and assisting other EM regions, further highlight his unwavering dedication to serving others and building leadership.

Mr. Walmsley's remarkable accomplishments, influential leadership, innovative programs, and deep community involvement make him highly deserving of the 2024 Emergency Manager of the Year Award. His exceptional contributions embody the qualities and values that this award seeks to recognize.

The Emergency Manager of the Year Award recognizes an emergency management practitioner for outstanding contributions to the field of emergency management.

IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit organization representing more than 5,800 emergency management and homeland security professionals for local communities, state and federal disaster officials, the 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.

###