

Nikolas Fort, CEM®

Candidate Statement for Vice-President, IAEM Region – 6

We have all witnessed, experienced, navigated, and been challenged with the increase pressure of our profession. As disasters, crises, large-scale, and complex emergencies become more frequent, severe, and expensive, the demand for professional Emergency Management grows.

As our region shifts to new leadership, it is important to ensure the new leaders have a hand on the pulse of the growing challenges and needs of Emergency Management programs throughout.

Although Region 6 is quite unique in the challenges and some of the hazards we face, even regions within the region, there are overarching issues that must also be addressed that are not specific to our region.

The new leadership must be willing to have difficult conversations, communicate within the region to ensure a comprehensive view, and address them appropriately.

Action is why I would appreciate your vote of confidence for the position of IAEM Region 6 Vice President.

What I hope to accomplish is a shift in culture. The culture I look forward to is one where IAEM regional leadership convenes with regional members to have mindful and action-oriented discussions about challenges within the profession.

This shift will require collaboration with the whole-community including caucuses, other regions, committees, and more to ensure we are moving forward.

I understand a Vice President of the region cannot do this alone. It requires all members of leadership to buy-in to the culture of action. I do believe the right leadership choices can accomplish this.

Finally, to tell you a little about myself. I am the Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Management for the City of Lubbock, Texas. Prior to that I worked as an Emergency Manager for a health system in Illinois where I was an active member of an emergency management coalition. I know how the profession is different, and the same, per geographical and industry changes. I also know what it is like to do small-town, rural, emergency management and regional-hub emergency management.

I have a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science, both in disaster preparedness and emergency management from Arkansas State University. I am a Military Emergency Management Specialist and sit on two Texas state committees through the Texas Emergency Management Advisory Committee and am the chair of the Sheltering Work Group. I am also an original member of the IAEM Municipal Caucus, and a Certified Emergency Manager through IAEM.