

IAEM-USA Region 7

NEWSLETTER



16 December, 2024

IAEM-USA Region 7: Supporting Emergency Management Professionals

Across the Midwest

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), with over 6,000 members worldwide, is a non-profit educational organization committed to advancing the "Principles of Emergency Management." IAEM represents professionals dedicated to saving lives, protecting property, and preserving the environment during emergencies and disasters. IAEM-USA Region 7 supports members in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska, and works to foster strong partnerships with state emergency management associations throughout the region.



Four members from IAEM-USA Region 7 represented IAEM at the Iowa Homeland Security Conference in Ankeny, Iowa. From L-R: Jodi Freet, AJ Seeley, and Kim Elder. Not pictured: Mandy Bieber.

★ Giving Tuesday! ★

Region 7 has met our goal for the IAEM Scholarship Program, and it's all thanks to YOU! Your generous support empowers the next generation of emergency management professionals by providing scholarships to students pursuing careers in disaster preparedness and resilience.

Together, we've proven the strength of Region 7. Now, let's inspire others to join us in making a lasting impact.

Thank you for showing that when Region 7 comes together, we achieve greatness. Your support doesn't just fund education—it builds the foundation for safer, stronger communities.



Universities and Colleges Caucus (UCC)

Symposium

Region 7 members attended the Universities and Colleges Caucus (UCC) Symposium at the 72nd Annual IAEM Conference, joining 170 professionals to explore invaluable insights and strategies on campus safety and emergency preparedness.

The keynote speaker, Jack Briggs, Maj Gen (Ret), EdD, shared his expertise in the session "EMs and Executives", focusing on bridging the gap between emergency managers and institutional leadership. The symposium featured collaborative discussions, group activities, and expert-led presentations, equipping participants with practical tools and innovative ideas to enhance emergency preparedness across university campuses.

Region 7 is proud to have been part of this dynamic event and looks forward to applying these insights to strengthen initiatives throughout our communities.



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE STORM SPOTTER TRAINING
Informative, Interactive, & FREE FOR ALL AGES!
Learn the science behind tornadoes & other types of severe weather.
Help your community by finding out how to report severe weather to the National Weather Service.
Virtual & in-person classes offered all spring!
For more information: weather.gov/stlouis/spottertalks

❄️ 'Tis the Season to Plan Ahead! 🧢

As winter gives way to spring, it's the perfect time to gear up for storm spotter training! If you've scheduled any spotter training events, let us know—we're here to help spread the word and ensure your community is prepared.

Together, we can support lifesaving preparedness efforts and make sure everyone is ready for severe weather season. Don't wait—share your plans with us today!

[Learn more about these articles and more on LinkedIn](#)

AWARDS 2024



IAEM-USA REGION 7 AWARDS

IAEM-USA Region 7 President Randy Pommenville, CEM, KCEM, recognized Morgan Hunter, KCEM at the IAEM-USA Region 7 Business meeting for his dedication and efforts in making the 2024 Region 7 Conference a success.

The conference, held on August 7-8, 2024, at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas, featured discussions on regional and national resilience topics, catering to both seasoned and aspiring emergency management professionals.

The event included a pre-conference networking session, a certification exam, and presentations on disaster movies, recovery, domestic terrorism, and water scarcity. A panel discussion analyzed the Chiefs Super Bowl Parade incident, and the conference concluded with the IAEM-USA Region 7 Awards presentation.

Morgan's contributions were instrumental in the conference's success, and his recognition is well-deserved.



THE 72ND IAEM ANNUAL CONFERENCE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!



A huge shoutout to the 100+ IAEM-USA Region 7 members who joined us and represented our region with pride at the 72nd Annual IAEM Conference! Your unwavering dedication to emergency management and resilience is truly inspiring. A special congratulations to everyone who earned their Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) or Associate Emergency Manager (AEM) certifications—an incredible milestone in advancing our profession.

This year's event was all about learning, collaboration, and innovation, as we worked together to strengthen emergency preparedness and resilience. Let's carry the momentum forward as we continue to grow and lead in this vital field. Thank you, Region 7, for your passion and hard work.



Region 7 Celebrates Amanda Burki's Achievement!



Region 7 extends heartfelt congratulations to Amanda Burki on her outstanding accomplishment! Amanda, the Deputy Director of Emergency Management for Lincoln Lancaster County, has achieved a Mastery rating from the K0243 panel after completing the rigorous Planning Practitioner Program at the Emergency Management Institute/National Disaster and Emergency Management University.

Amanda's dedication over the past two years is an inspiring testament to the commitment and resilience that define our emergency management professionals. She embraced the program's challenges with focus and determination, gaining invaluable skills and forging meaningful relationships within the emergency management community.

In Amanda's own words, "The focus and dedication required were truly rewarding. The relationships forged during this experience have proven invaluable, enhancing my skills and broadening my network."

We are incredibly proud of Amanda's success and the example she sets for us all. For those in the planning field, Amanda highly encourages considering this program, describing it as an investment that pays dividends in both knowledge and connections.

Amanda, thank you for inspiring Region 7 with your achievement and for continuing to lead with excellence. We celebrate this well-deserved milestone with you!



Michael Vacca, a member of the WASHU Emergency Management team and a veteran, along with his son, volunteered with the Office of Military & Veterans Services at Washington University in St. Louis to support the Wreaths Across America event at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

This significant initiative pays tribute to and remembers those who have served, while also educating future generations about the importance of freedom. Joined by other volunteers, they placed thousands of holiday wreaths, ensuring that the sacrifices made by these veterans are honored during the holiday season.

SAVE THE DATE

Nebraska Association of Emergency Management (NAEM)

2025 NAEM CONFERENCE

"BEYOND THE FORECAST" >>

YOUNES SOUTH CONFERENCE CENTER Keamey, NE	APRIL 2 - 4 PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP "EXPLORING IMT UNIT LEADER POSITIONS AND ROLES" TUESDAY, APRIL 1 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	ROOMS AVAILABLE La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Keamey ROOM BLOCK CLOSING MARCH 10
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REGISTRATION WILL OPEN JANUARY 1, 2025
CALL FOR SPEAKERS OPENS NOVEMBER 1, 2024



Crawford County is accepting online applications for the following position.
Job Title: Emergency Management Coordinator



The City of St. Louis Emergency Management Agency is looking for an Emergency Management Specialist. If you are interested in developing, implementing, and overseeing plans to aid residents before, during, and after an emergency, we hope you'll check out our opening. Learn more and apply online at <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/jobs/>

December 16, 2024

Dear IAEM-USA Region 7 Members,

I hope this message finds you well. As we approach the end of another year, I want to take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments and look forward to what's on the horizon. It has been a year of growth, collaboration, and continued dedication to emergency management, and I am grateful for each of you and your contributions to our field.

Firstly, I want to express how wonderful it was to see so many of you at the 2024 IAEM-USA Region 7 Conference in Overland Park, KS, this past summer. Our gathering was a testament to the strength and commitment of our emergency management community.

We also showed up in force in Colorado Springs last month for the 2024 IAEM-USA Conference and EMEX held at the Broadmoor Resort. It was a great conference capped off with seeing seven of our Region 7 members receive their CEMs at the Presidential Banquet.

Looking ahead, I am thrilled to update you on the 2025 IAEM Region 7 Conference, which will be held on July 23 and 24, 2025 in Overland Park, KS. This conference will be an invaluable opportunity for our region to come together once again to learn and grow alongside each other. We are already working on developing an engaging program and will invite you to share your ideas for sessions and workshops that will help our community thrive.

In addition, it is my pleasure to welcome Molly Bargmann as our new IAEM-USA Region 7 Nebraska Representative. Molly's experience and passion for emergency management will be a tremendous asset to our team. I am confident she will continue the excellent work and collaboration fostered by our outgoing Nebraska Representative, Amanda Burki. We thank Amanda for her dedication and service and wish her well in her future endeavors.

Please continue to stay connected through our IAEM Region. LinkedIn and Twitter sites, newsletters and meetings in the coming year; your involvement is what makes IAEM Region 7 healthy and strong.

As we usher in the holiday season, I wish you and your families a safe and peaceful time of rest and joy. May this season fill your homes with happiness, your hearts with love, and your lives with good cheer. Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Warm regards,

Randy Pommenville
President, IAEM-USA Region 7



**Randy Pommenville, President
IAEM-USA Region 7**

