

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

I am excited to be going to CEMA next month! I will take something for the auction – not sure what. Lots here:

- ◆ News and pic from the IAEM conference....pg 4-6
- ◆ A feature “News from the R8 States” pg 2
- ◆ IAEM Government Affairs Update ... pg 3

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**REGIONAL CALENDAR (2025)**

- [CEMA](#) Feb 11-13, Loveland, CO
- [UEMA](#) May19-20, Saint George, UT
- [SDEMA](#) (TBD) Sioux Falls,SD
- [NDEMA](#) Sept 8-10, Bismark, ND
- [MEMA](#) (dates) Lewistown,MT
- [WAWA](#) (TBD)
- [IAEM](#) 11/14-20, Louisville, KY

**When/where is your state’s 2025 conference?**



REMINDER, you can see all the newsletters, notes and minutes on the [IAEM R8 website](#)

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW R8 MEMBERS**

Recognize anyone? Take a minute to welcome or congratulate them.

- ♥ Gregory Gust, ND
- ♥ Dominic Tatti, CO
- ♥ Claire Hathaway, CO
- ♥ Cailee Hamm, CO
- ♥ Jeff Burke, CO
- ♥ Lauren Coval, CO
- ♥ Essi Ellis, CO
- ♥ Taten Knapp, MT
- ♥ Andrew Hanna, CO
- ♥ Emma Erwin, UT
- ♥ Matt Chapman, CO
- ♥ Wendi Lemons, CO
- ♥ Matt Bengtzen, UT
- ♥ Conner Berens, CO
- ♥ Cameron McCamley, MT
- ♥ Dustin Walsh, CO

**R8’s NEWEST CEM!**

- ♥ Merrie Garner, Frederick, CO
- ♥ Kelly Johnson, Lindon, UT

**R8’s CEM as soon as she takes the exam!**

- ♥ Shayleigh Jade O’Hanon, Fargo, ND



## From Around the IAEM R8 States

### WYOMING:



Laramie County is offering several TEEEX courses throughout 2025. They were developed in partnership with DHS/FEMA and offered free.

You can also find this information on the *NEW*

[CLCEMA calendar](#) or write to [beth.harris@laramiecountywy.gov](mailto:beth.harris@laramiecountywy.gov)

**Speaking of TEEEX ...** One of their cybersecurity people reached out to me to ask if anybody in Region 8 was interested in their no-cost cybersecurity classes. All you have to provide is a venue and find at least 25 participants. (Coffee might be nice, too.) If you can't get to Wyoming's courses, maybe you can schedule one of your own. Contact at [TEEX](#) is Noel Templeton [Noel.Templeton@teex.tamu.edu](mailto:Noel.Templeton@teex.tamu.edu)

### MONTANA

Doug Dodge  
(MEMA President)  
and David Stamey  
(MEMA VP)



conducted recent meetings with MTDES about EMPG funding, finding ways MEMA could assist in EMAC capabilities. As a result, MEMA board members will be attending weekly meetings with MTDES Administrator Delila Bruno once the legislature kicks off, to discuss any potential legislation that could impact the field. And, MTDES committed to establish an EMAC working group to review opportunities for assistance MEMA may be able to provide in bolstering EMAC capability.

### COLORADO

The Colorado Disability Funding Committee (CDFC), now housed in the recently established [Colorado Disability Opportunity Office \(CDOO\)](#), within the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), is thrilled to announce **\$2 million in available funding** through [Disability Benefit Application Assistance Grants](#). Both non-profit organizations and county human services agencies are encouraged to apply.



[The call for applications is now open](#) and will close on January 31, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. are encouraged to attend and ask questions:

### SOUTH DAKOTA

Robert Hill, President of SDEMA, receiving a citation for his time and work in supporting IAEM Region 8 as R8 President and R8 Sec/Treas. Presented at the IAEM Conference in Colorado Springs.



**This page should be a regular feature! Send me news about what your state is doing. 😊**



The Dispatch is a weekly newsletter from IAEM that collates EM-related news around the world. It is free and here is how to [subscribe](#). The most recent Dispatch highlights the [Top Articles in 2024](#). Here is a sample:

- [US Disaster Programs are Teetering](#)
- [FBI Report Health Care the Top Target by Cyber-Attackers](#)
- [Meet America's Secret Team of Nuclear First Responders](#)
- [Emergency Preparedness Map Reveals US Counties Least Prepared for Natural Disasters](#)
- [As Wildfire Season Becomes More Threatening, Experts are Turning to AI](#)
- [FEMA Plans Move to New HQ in 2027, Solidifying Break From DHS Campus](#)

## WATCH FOR STUDENT NEWS!!

A goal for R8 this year is to create a vigorous Student Program, to help nurture our future emergency managers.

Thanks to [Jim Burghard](#) (ND) and [Nick Sporer](#) (CO) for taking on this task. Once completed, they will be looking for volunteers to help get it started. Are you interested? Let them know.



## [IAEM Government Affairs Committee](#)

**Subject:** [Policy Recommendations for Trump Transition and Congress](#)

We will formally submit this document to the Landing Team when the time comes, but in the meantime, feel free to share this document with anyone in your network who has an “in” with President Trump and his circle of advisors. The DHS “Landing Team” is not yet in place, but I have been told that we could see an announcement as early as next week. Highlights

- Quickly confirm the FEMA Administrator.
- Reduce bureaucratic complexity.
- Simplify the process for receiving disaster assistance.
- Maintain the disaster relief fund.
- Support SLTT emergency management capacity.
- Empower the FEMA Administrator



## **DHS- Emergency Management of Tomorrow**

A little over a year ago, DHS Science and Technology initiated this project along with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and other stakeholders to explore the future of EOC's given the rapidly changing threats emergency managers confront and the rapid escalation of innovative technology. The deliverable and products that resulted from this first year effort is now available to the public [here](#). The website will continue to be updated

**Region 8 at the IAEM Conference**



*IAEM Region 8 Officers at the Closing Banquet  
Robert Hill (SD), Dustin Willett (SD), Valerie  
Lucus-McEwen (UT), Kyle Lopez CO*



Region 8 Basket for the IAEM Scholarship Auction.

**Thank you, Peter Perez (CO)!!**

IAEM raised \$43,559 for the Scholarship Program.



Arthur J. Simental (CO), creator of the board game Emergency Operations Center: Wildfire Mayhem, donated \$5,000 to tee IAEM Scholarship Fund. His game is currently available on [Kickstarter](https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1234567890/emergency-operations-center-wildfire-mayhem). IAEM Scholarship Chair, Barbara Russo, Ph.D., CEM accepted the check. **Thank you, Arthur!**

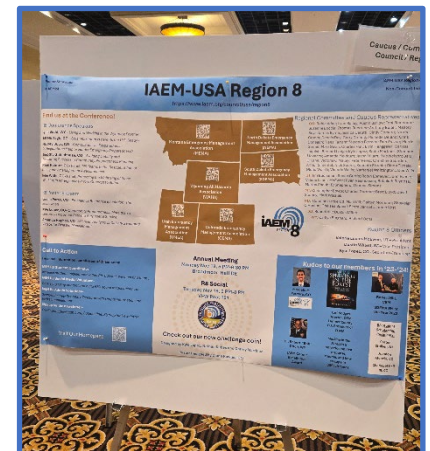


The Region 8 poster.

**Thank you, Diana Rawles, (CO)!**

There were 57 posters entered in Competitive, Non-Competitive and IAEM

.Region/Committee/Caucuses divisions.



**Are you getting ready for the IAEM 2025 Conference; Louisville, KY**

**Breakout Sessions**

The **Call for Speakers** will open on Friday, 1/10/25, and will close on Friday, 2/14/25. Speaker notifications will be sent by May 1, 2025.

**Poster Showcase**

The **Call for Speakers** will open in March 2025.

**EMvision Talks®**

The **Call for Speakers** will open in April 2025



Preparing for the Region 8 Annual Meeting. **There were 97 people in attendance.** (Copies of the minutes and sign-in sheets and presentation sent along with this newsletter.)



The Region 8 Social was at the [VFW Post 101](#) in Colorado Springs (where the drinks were a lot less than anyplace else!). Approximately 35 attended. Also, the pizza was good. And the people were wonderful! **Thank you, Becky!!**

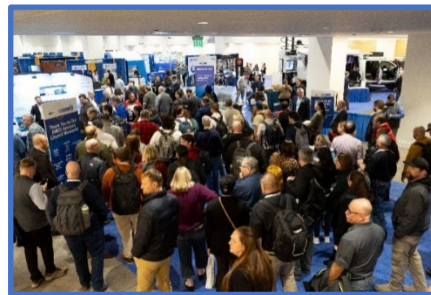
**Looking for More Information and Pictures**

- ◆ All the information about the 2024 IAEM conference, including speakers and topics can be found [here](#).
- ◆ All the photos taken during the conference can be viewed [here](#).
- ◆ [This](#) is a list of EMEX exhibitors and [these](#) were the conference sponsors



**Certificates of Appreciation for State Associations**

- Robert Hill, President, SDEMA (South Dakota)
- Doug Dodge, President of MEMA (Montana)
- Valerie Lucus-McEwen, (R8 President)
- Stuart Moffatt, UEMA (Utah)
- Nathan Whittington, VP CEMA (Colorado)
- Ben Gates, President NDEMA (North Dakota)
- Russ Dalgren, Past President, WAHA (WY)



The Expo was a big draw this year, with almost 300 vendors and an amazing array of ideas and equipment for Emergency Managers





## Reflections on the IAEM Conference

Doug Dodge.  
President, MEMA  
(*President's Update 11/25/24*)

The reason I couldn't attend the SAC in person was because I attended the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) annual conference in Colorado Springs. This was my first time in attendance, and I'm now kicking myself for not having done so previously. It was a stimulating and invigorating experience, with an almost daunting breadth of session topics to attend. There were over 2600 other emergency managers taking part, which enabled some incredible networking opportunities. The cherry on top of all of it was the Expo (EMEX), with sponsors of almost every imaginable resource emergency managers may have interest in utilizing.

A specific event I want to mention was the Region 8 meeting and social that included emergency managers from Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and of course Montana. Also of note, I took part in the State Emergency Management Associations Caucus, with officers from state associations from across the country. It was a great opportunity to see how other state associations were handling issues that were very similar to our own. I collected contacts from many of them as they were eager to share lessons learned and opportunities, as we all were.

Finally, and most impressively, the other attendee from Montana this year was MTDES Response Bureau Chief Brett Lloyd, who earned his Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) credential (*photo includes Jon Fessler, CEM, VP of EHS for FOX, CA and Chair of the Certification Committee*). For those who have never investigated that, it is a substantial accomplishment. We congratulate him on his achievement and for being an inspiration to the field.

Next year the conference is being held in Louisville, Kentucky from November 14-20, and if you can find the time and the budget, I can't recommend it enough. I will be going again. While I did pay for the trip on my own dime (and am not interested in reimbursement), I do think it would be worth a discussion for the Association to help other officers who may be interested in attending in the future, as it is an incredibly valuable experience.



*Brett Lloyd CEM, MEP, MT State Disaster Response Bureau Chief; Sierra Anderson, Emergency Manager, Corvallis, OR; Doug Dodge Emergency Director, PIO, Fire Warden. Clancy.*