

Get to Know Your IAEM Leadership

IAEM-USA Region 2 President

Michael Prasad, CEM, Executive Director, The Center for Emergency Management Intelligence Research

In an effort to introduce the IAEM leadership to members and recognize their hard work for the organization, the IAEM Bulletin will be providing profiles on the current IAEM leadership throughout the year. A heartfelt thanks to our volunteers whose hard work makes IAEM successful.

Michael currently resides in Fanwood, New Jersey, and has been an IAEM member for 10 years. You can connect with Michael on [LinkedIn](#) or email him at USARegion2President@iaem.com.

■ **Biographical sketch:** Mike is a Certified Emergency Manager and was elected president of the IAEM-USA for Region 2, which covers New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in Nov. 2024. He was regional vice president for the prior four years. He is also the past chair of the IAEM-USA's Children and Disaster Caucus. Mike has held emergency management director level positions at the State of New Jersey and the American Red Cross, including command and general staff roles on major disasters and events. He researches and writes professionally on emergency management policies and procedures from a pracademic perspective, advises non-governmental organizations on their continuity of operations planning, and has built, conducted, and evaluated multiple exercise series on an all-hazards/all-threats basis. His book "Emergency Management Threats and Hazards: Water" published in 2024 is now being used in a 50-hour professional development course, introduced in 2025. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Ohio University and a Master of Arts degree in emergency and disaster management from American Public University. His views expressed do

not necessarily represent the official position of any of these organizations.

■ **What professional accomplishment or experience are you most proud of and/or learned the most from?**

In 2023, Mike embarked on a pro-bono advocacy effort for pediatric feeding during disasters (i.e., infants and toddlers), based on an inquiry from a disaster researcher to the Children and Disaster Caucus. This is a work in progress but some milestones have been met, which can be found in a free-to-read e-book, published in 2024.

■ **What are you hoping to get out of being a part of the IAEM leadership team?**

The opportunity to help shape the IAEM-USA and the overall field of professional emergency management through advocacy, inspiration, and analysis.

■ **How did you get your start in emergency management?**

9/11 – I was working in NYC (midtown) on that day. This is a much longer story than what will fit here. I have written a short version for LinkedIn, a longer version for Medium, and will have a much longer one in a free-to-read online book, out in 2025.

■ **What's your superpower?**

I can converse entirely in EM acronyms, being a SME PITA, myself.



*Michael Prasad, CEM,
IAEM-USA Region 2 president*

■ **Tell us about one of your best experiences working in emergency management:**

Superstorm Sandy response and recovery work in New Jersey (2012-13). This was the first PRESDEC where all six Recovery Support Functions (RSFs) were implemented. I was part of the team which: 1) solidified the roles for national NGOs (NVOAD and the American Red Cross) for RSF roles, 2) helped FEMA revise its cost-share match protocol for donated resources, 3) created the first paid-staff state VOAD, in New Jersey and which is still in place today.

■ **Is there anything you read every morning?**

Emergency Management Intel-

[continued on page 3](#)

Get to Know Your IAEM Leadership—Region 2 *continued from page 2*

ligence – think of it as more than situational awareness reports. As a Red Cross leadership volunteer, I have a ton of daily reports available, but the one I open up every day is the overnight national shelter count, by state/territory.

■ Is there any advice or knowledge you would like to share with emerging professionals in the field?

Build a network of SMEs, peers, mentors, etc. and cultivate it constantly. Help others equitably, as you need help yourself. One aspect of professional emergency management which is very different from most other professions, is that generally we are ‘in it’ to help others, and not line our own pockets. And

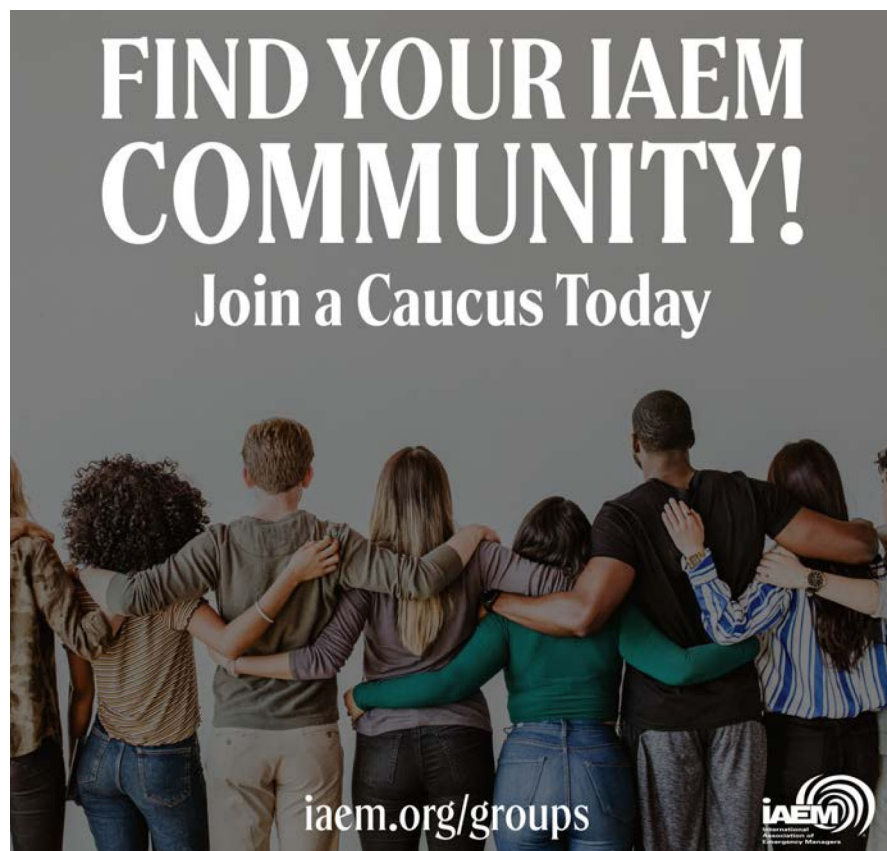
if you think of the people you work on behalf of, as ‘clients’ rather than ‘victims’, it will change your own perspective on how you do that work, for everyone’s benefit—including your own.

■ Looking to the future, is there growth you would like to see in emergency management or IAEM?

Two areas – both of which I will be personally working directly on – for growth at the IAEM (and effectively also in professional EM) is our partnerships with the American Red Cross and the U.S. state/territory/sovereign tribal nation associations; both for increased membership in the IAEM and for collaborative work toward professional certification credentialing.

■ What motto do you live by?

Why have only one? I have three: Carpe Diem, Be Intrepid, and Be Kind. ♦



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Articles should be submitted to Bulletin Editor John Osborne via email at john@iaem.com.

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