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News Release

Decker Assumes Post of IAEM-USA National President

November 20, 2008 (Kansas City, KS) Russell Decker, CEM, the emergency manager for Allen County, Ohio assumed duties today as national president for the U. S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA). Decker was sworn into office during ceremonies at IAEM's 56th Annual Conference attended by more than 1,500 emergency managers.

“This is an exciting time for our profession and our nation with the transition to a new administration in Washington, DC. There has never been a time for our country to better prepare to deal with all hazards facing our citizens whether from acts of nature, such as the wildland fires currently in California, or from intentional acts of terrorists.” Said Decker.

Decker has served as Allen County's emergency manager since 1998, and is past president of the Emergency Management Association of Ohio (2002-2003). Decker serves on the FEMA National Advisory Council and was a senior steering committee member in the creation of the Department of Homeland Security's *National Response Framework (NRF)* document that was released in March of 2007.

Decker holds a Master of Science degree from Tiffin University with undergraduate studies from The Ohio State University and the University of Northwestern Ohio. He is an adjunct professor of criminal justice at Tiffin University and Rhodes State College.

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) has more than 4,500 members including emergency management professionals at the state and local government levels, tribal nations, the military, colleges and universities and the non-profit sector in the United States. IAEM has consistently promoted the goals of saving lives and protecting property during emergencies and disasters since its founding in 1952 as the U. S. Civil Defense Council.

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