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PRESS RELEASE

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LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGER JOINS IN CALL FOR FEMA REFORMS

(LIMA, OH) – Russ Decker, director of the Allen County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, joins with his colleagues from across the nation in calling for reform of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“I am in total support of a position paper released today by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) that calls for improved emergency response through the strengthening and reforming of FEMA.” Said Decker.

The reforms touted by IAEM and Decker include:

- Restoring FEMA to Independent Agency status, reporting directly to the President of the United States
- Require FEMA leadership to have expertise in the field of emergency management
- Restore preparedness functions of planning and training to FEMA, rather than displacing them throughout various agencies within the Department of Homeland Security
- Establishment of a Permanent FEMA Work Group involving stakeholders from all levels of government including state and local emergency management practitioners

The IAEM represents more than 2,700 local and state emergency managers across the United States. Director Decker currently serves as a CEM Commissioner for IAEM and is a member of the Government Affairs Committee.

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