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News Release

H. Edward Hicks, CEM[®], Director, Morgan County Emergency Management Agency, Takes Office as IAEM-USA President

Nov. 9, 2010 (Falls Church, Va.) – Eddie Hicks, CEM[®], director, Morgan County Emergency Management Agency, in Decatur, Ala., has taken office as 2010-2011 president of the USA Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA). Outgoing IAEM-USA President Pamela L’Heureux, CEM, passed the gavel to Hicks on Nov. 3, during the IAEM-USA Presidential Banquet, at the IAEM 58th Annual Conference & EMEX 2010, in San Antonio, Texas. Also sworn in at the banquet were IAEM-USA First Vice President Hui-Shan Walker, MPA, CEM, VaPEM, and IAEM-USA Second Vice President Jeff Walker, CEM, MEP.

During his acceptance speech, Hicks discussed the importance of the four D’s: dedication, definition (of work), duplication (mentoring), and delivering (on the work plan). “As the need for trained emergency management professionals continues to grow, it is important for IAEM and its members to mentor our profession’s future leaders,” said Hicks. “This needs to happen across the spectrum – not only in our local, state and federal governments, but also in colleges and universities, hospitals and private corporations. I am honored and humbled to be leading IAEM for the next year. I hope to be an example for others and challenge our established members to mentor newcomers to the profession of emergency management.”

“Eddie’s skills as a local coordinator will carry IAEM-USA into the next 12 months as he sets his goals for the U.S. Board,” said Rick Cox, CEM, IAEM-Global Board Chairman and Senior Planner IEM, Inc. “Under his leadership the U.S. membership will see an expansion of services to members and improved communications from the Board to the membership.”

“This is a huge accomplishment for the state of Alabama and the citizens of Morgan County, to have Eddie Hicks serving in such a prestigious organization,” said Alabama Emergency Management Agency Director Brock Long. “Being prepared for an emergency is something we take serious in Alabama and seeing a county EMA director leading the U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers indicates his level of dedication and commitment to his profession.”

Hicks has been a local emergency management director for 31 years, beginning for the first 17 years as the director in Colbert County in northwest Alabama. In 1997 he was appointed as director of Morgan County Emergency Management Agency in Decatur, Ala. He has served three separate terms as president of the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers. Additionally, he was appointed by Alabama’s Governor to two terms as Commissioner of the Alabama Service Commission. Hicks has a B.S. degree in Public Safety Administration from Athens State University and an Associate degree in Fire Science Management from Shoals Community College. He earned his Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) designation in 2001.

IAEM-USA, the nation’s largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 5,000 emergency management and homeland security professionals for local communities, state and federal disaster officials, private sector, non-governmental organizations and others involved in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all types of disasters including acts of terrorism. IAEM provides: access to the largest network of emergency management experts who can provide advice and assistance; the Certified Emergency Manager[®] program; annual scholarships; a comprehensive monthly newsletter; and more.