

Often as the Conference Committee Chair I get asked very specific questions about attending our conference. These questions range from, "As a person who does "X," will there be sessions within my interest at the conference." Or, "I am in emergency management in an 'allied profession' what is at the conference for me.

The above are but a few of the numerous questions I get, and I understand why potential attendees what to send these inquiries, we are all working on limited budgets with limited funding and we want to make sure we make the best possible choices when spending our resources.

As we always like to say, our conference is the premier conference for emergency managers and our allied partners, but words can easily be written. How do we prove this claim? I believe the proof is in what we offer. First, we bring 2200-2800 professionals from around the world to our conference each year, a profession in which networking is a key ingredient to all our success. Who we meet at these conferences are often the people we need for that next question we have, or perhaps that next career move. Networking is key. Second, beginning on the weekend before the conference, we offer a variety of one, two and three-day courses, most of which are part of the conference registration.

Beginning Sunday and carrying on through Wednesday afternoon, we have a variety of speakers and sessions on everything emergency management and related to disasters and disaster preparedness, response and recovery. We have open sessions on Sunday with many of our federal government partners, giving the latest federal updates. Throughout the week, we have various sessions on legislation and our profession.

We have a welcome party Sunday night that highlights networking, which comes right after a large first steps mixer for all our new attendees to network with our organization's leadership, as well as many long-time professionals.

We have over three hundred submissions a year, and we accept the top eighty proposals to speak. In addition, we have keynotes from some of the best in our profession.

The profession of emergency management, and thus our conference, is not just about people with the title Emergency Manager. Emergency/Disaster management affects all of us and not just us, but our families and our communities. We have sessions on our mental health for those in our profession, and sessions on helping communities who have faced trauma.

We have sessions on dealing with all types of severe weather, fires, technological disasters, and cyber events to name but a few types of events that affect all of us. We have sessions on critical infrastructure from both the perspective of those who work in critical infrastructure and the community stakeholders who work with them. We have started to

have more sessions on Artificial Intelligence and its pros and cons in today's world and the impact on us as emergency managers and our community of stakeholders.

Evacuations, Alerts and Warning and reunification are three areas in which all of us have a need to be the very best, and we have experts that not only talk about these things but how we have failed, and how we have succeeded.

In all these sessions along with many other sessions specific sessions, we speak about leadership and its importance before, during and after an event. Many of our sessions mentioned above are based upon lessons learned from real-world events.

Collaboration, Communication, Coordination and Cooperation in Preparedness, Response, and Recovery are the keys to our success. With thousands of professionals coming each year. And with a dedicated group of forty plus volunteers working twelve months a year to constantly improve what we are doing, along with the product and experience we provide for our attendees, this is why I think it is The Premier Emergency/Disaster Management conference.

To conclude, I will end by saying that we also have a very large Exhibit Hall with vendors from every aspect of emergency and disaster management also included.

Please feel free to reach out if you have additional questions.

Duane Hagelgans  
Chair, IAEM Conference Committee  
[ConferenceChair@iaem.com](mailto:ConferenceChair@iaem.com)  
[iaemconference.info](http://iaemconference.info)  
#iaem26