

All-Hazards Incident Management Teams Association Formed

DENVER, CO (Dec. 9, 2010) – The newly formed All-Hazards Incident Management Teams Association, Inc. announced the election of its first Board of Directors today at the All-Hazards Incident Management Teams Training and Education Conference (AHIMT-TEC) in Denver. The national Association was incorporated in Colorado on Dec. 1, and will provide leadership and education to Incident Management Teams throughout the country.

The Association is the first of its kind for All-Hazards Incident Management Teams and will set the national standards for training and education, said Bill Easterling, the Association's Director-at-Large and Fire Marshal for Genesee Fire & Rescue in Colorado.

"We have seen the critical difference and success that effective incident management will make in the face of major and catastrophic incidents," said Steve Grainer, the Association's President and Chief of Incident Management Programs at the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. "The formation of this Association demonstrates the broad commitment to continue to take these teams to the next level and beyond."

When communities are faced with disasters like wildland fires, blizzards and tornadoes, the All-Hazards Incident Management Teams often are the first called in to bring order to the chaos. Nationwide, there are 128 AHIMTs being tracked by the U.S. Fire Administration. More than 250 members have already joined the new Association. The Association will promote, support, improve and enhance the mission of these All-Hazard Incident Management Teams by providing educational opportunities, setting standards and promoting the cooperation of federal, state, local and tribal agencies as well as non-governmental agencies in all phases of emergency management. The end result will make the teams and our communities stronger.

The Board of Directors is made up of 11 members from 10 regions across the country, plus a director at large. In addition to Grainer and Easterling, the newly elected Board includes Tod Gates, 1st Vice President, of the Lynwood, (WA) Fire Department; Randall Collins, 2nd Vice President, of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security; Victoria Koenig, Secretary, of the State of Texas All-Hazards IMT; William Austin, of the West Hartford (CT) Fire Department; William Campbell, of the New York State Office of Emergency Management, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services; Bobby Smith, of the Jacksonville (FL) Fire Rescue; Wayne Nelson, of the Galina (KS) Police Department; Mark Peck, of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; and Brian Fennessy, of the San Diego City Fire-Rescue Department.

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