Two State Programs Achieve National Emergency Management Reaccreditation

PHOENIX, AZ. – The emergency preparedness and response systems of two state governments were granted full reaccreditation today by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP).

To states of Arizona and Florida achieved the milestone of having fully accredited emergency management programs, joining nineteen other states and four jurisdictions with accredited programs.

Emergency management accreditation represents a significant achievement. The state programs documented how they meet national standards for their disaster preparedness and response systems. To achieve accreditation, each state documented compliance with a set of standards used in the accreditation process and underwent a peer-review assessment by EMAP trained assessors.

“With the approval of the Commission, these states have completed the final step for accreditation,” said Karen Windon, vice-chairperson of the EMAP Commission and deputy county administrator of Manatee County, Florida. “States like these that work toward and achieve compliance with these standards are at the forefront in ensuring their residents are served by a comprehensive system to deal with disasters.”

Accreditation is a means of demonstrating, through program assessment, documentation and on-site assessment by an independent team, that a program meets national standards. Accreditation is valid for five years from the date the EMAP Commission grants accreditation. Accredited programs must maintain compliance with EMAP standards and be reassessed in five years to maintain accredited status.

EMAP is voluntary accreditation process for state, territorial and local government programs that coordinate preparedness and response activities for disasters, from tornadoes to terrorist acts. It recognizes the ability of a state or local government to bring together personnel, resources, and communications from a variety of agencies and organizations in preparation for and in response to an emergency. This forms the foundation of the nation’s emergency response system. EMAP is the only accreditation process for state and local emergency management preparedness.

“Many states and localities have quality emergency management programs. EMAP looks for documentation and procedures to ensure consistency and continuity in the jurisdiction’s capability to prepare and respond,” Windon noted.

Working collaboratively since 1997, state, local and federal emergency managers developed EMAP to provide quality standards and a process for determining compliance. The *Emergency Management Standard by EMAP*, creates a structure for strategic planning for improvement coupled with methodical, verified assessment by experienced peers from other jurisdictions, which results in stronger capabilities and accountability. The EMAP process evaluates emergency management programs on compliance with requirements in 16 areas, including: planning; resource management; training; exercises, evaluations, and corrective actions; and communications and warning.

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