



Carolyn J. Harshman, MPA, CEM
President
International Association of Emergency Managers – USA Council

Ms. Harshman, a certified emergency manager with more than 30 years of experience in the field, is the president of Emergency Planning Consultants based in San Diego, California. Plans, training, and exercises services are provided to a range of government entities. Like many others, she entered the field of emergency management as a second career. Her first career was a professional land use planner for the City of San Diego and County of San Diego with a range of duties including subdivisions, development permits, zoning ordinance revisions, community planning, and redevelopment projects. Thanks to a random temporary assignment with the County of San Diego to update its Emergency Operations Plan, Ms. Harshman found a new profession in emergency management.

Joining the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) 20 years ago, Carolyn has enjoyed several leadership opportunities including 6 years as Conference Committee Chair, Membership Committee Chair, Leadership Symposium Chair, Region 9 President, and now IAEM-USA President. As President, she is determined to bring other emergency management related professions into the Association including planning, engineering, building inspection, economic development, public works, and public health. At present, IAEM-USA has over 5,100 members and maintains the certification program offering Associate Emergency Manager® and Certified Emergency Manager®. The certification program, established through a grant from FEMA and administered by IAEM, was developed to raise and maintain professional standards for emergency managers.

Ms. Harshman is proud to have participated in the first cadre of the National Emergency Management Executive Academy. A life-long native of San Diego, Ms. Harshman holds a Master of Public Administration from San Diego State University. She lives in San Diego with her spouse Mary Claire Cuthbert, RN.