



# Michigan State Police

## Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Professional Emergency Manager (PEM) Program Modifications

November 29, 2012

- **Why are modifications being made to the Professional Emergency Manager (PEM) program?**

The Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) is updating the PEM program to eliminate duplication of courses, strengthen the value of the PEM designation, and further professionalize emergency management in the state of Michigan.

- **Can I still obtain my PEM if I already started taking PEM courses and am partway through the process?**

Yes. If you have completed classroom courses for the PEM within the past two years, you will be afforded the opportunity to finish your PEM designation through the end of March 2013. Final PEM exams are scheduled for January 17, 2013, and March 27, 2013. To register for the final PEM exam, visit <https://mi.train.org> and search for course ID "1018983".

To facilitate self-study, all necessary course study materials will be posted online in the beginning of December at [www.michigan.gov/emhsd-training](http://www.michigan.gov/emhsd-training).

- **How do I obtain a PEM designation under the new program?**

The following process must be completed to obtain the new PEM designation:

1. Apply to the MSP/EMHSD using the online training system, called MI-TRAIN, available at <https://mi.train.org>.
2. Complete the below coursework within 4 years:
  - Either the Associate Emergency Manager (AEM<sub>SM</sub>) program or the Certified Emergency Manager (CEM<sub>®</sub>) program through the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM);
  - Specific online courses through FEMA's Independent Study Program (ISP);
  - Modules for the Michigan Core Emergency Management Knowledge Requirement (MI-CEMKR); and
  - Final exam for the MI-CEMKR.
3. Submit documentation to the PEM Advisory Board for review and recommendation.
4. Lastly, obtain approval by the MSP/EMHSD commander.

- **What is the difference between the CEM<sub>®</sub>/AEM<sub>SM</sub> certifications and the current PEM program in Michigan?**

The IAEM program for the CEM<sub>®</sub> designation goes well beyond the Michigan PEM program in requiring professional contributions, three years of experience, proven knowledge, skills, and ability, as well as a four year college degree from an accredited university. The CEM<sub>®</sub>/AEM<sub>SM</sub> certifications have the added benefit of being internationally recognized, whereas the PEM is only recognized in the state of Michigan.

- **How will the required CEM®/AEM<sub>SM</sub> training be presented?**

The majority of the CEM®/AEM<sub>SM</sub> coursework is available via online classes, both through FEMA and various colleges. Federally-funded courses are offered by FEMA, the Emergency Management Institute (EMI), and the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC) at their facilities and field locations at little or no cost to the student. In addition, emergency management courses provided by the state of Michigan may also be used to fulfill the CEM®/AEM<sub>SM</sub> requirements.
- **Will I need to travel out-of-state to take the CEM®/AEM<sub>SM</sub> exam?**

No, CEM®/AEM<sub>SM</sub> exams can be proctored in Michigan eliminating the need to travel out-of-state.
- **Where can I find more information about the CEM®/AEM<sub>SM</sub> programs?**

Detailed information about the CEM®/AEM<sub>SM</sub> programs can be found on the IAEM Web site at <http://iaem.com/certification/GeneralInfo/cem.htm>.
- **When will the MI-CEMKR start being offered?**

A pilot for the MI-CEMKR is projected to be offered in May 2013. Currently under development, the MI-CEMKR module is slated to be a two-day course taught by subject matter experts, followed by an exam. The MI-CEMKR module will be offered approximately two to four times each year, as needed.
- **Can I take the MI-CEMKR specific coursework before, during, or after the CEM®/AEM<sub>SM</sub> process?**

Yes, the MI-CEMKR can be completed during the process of obtaining either of the IAEM certifications. In addition, anyone new to the emergency management profession is encouraged to complete the MI-CEMKR as soon as practicable.
- **Will PEM continuing education units (CEUs) still be required?**

Yes, although the current requirement of 24 hours of annual training will be replaced by an online refresher and quiz.
- **My current job description requires completion of the PEM program. Should this be changed?**

Yes, it is recommended that any agency-specific training requirements are changed to reflect modifications to the PEM program. It is important to note that the current PEM designation is not a certification of professional competence and completion of the PEM program is not required by the state of Michigan.
- **Do I have to become a CEM®/AEM<sub>SM</sub> if I am already a PEM?**

No, the CEM®/AEM<sub>SM</sub> certification is not a requirement for individuals who already obtained their PEM designation. However, you may wish to consider obtaining CEM®/AEM<sub>SM</sub> certification as part of your own professional development.
- **How will the CEM®/AEM<sub>SM</sub> certification affect my current PEM designation?**

All current PEM designees will continue to hold the PEM designation in the state of Michigan as long as they take the annual online refresher. Individuals who are currently a PEM may wish to consider obtaining the CEM®/AEM<sub>SM</sub> certification as part of their own professional development, although this is not a requirement.
- **Are there currently CEMs®/AEM<sub>SM</sub> in the state of Michigan?**

Yes. A current listing of all CEM®/AEM<sub>SM</sub> is available at the IAEM Web site at <http://www.iaem.com/certification/generalinfo/documents/CEMLIST.pdf>.

- **Will the MSP/EMHSD continue offering emergency management training?**  
Yes, the MSP/EMHSD will continue offering courses including ICS 300, ICS 400, hazard mitigation, and others as deemed necessary. For a complete list of MSP/EMHSD courses, please visit [www.michigan.gov/emhsd-training](http://www.michigan.gov/emhsd-training).
- **Will the FEMA G courses still be offered by the state?**  
Yes, the state will continue offering the FEMA developed G courses, including:
  - G191 – ICS/EOC Interface
  - G290 – Basic Public Information Officer
  - G120/130 – Exercise Design & Development, Exercise Evaluation & Improvement Planning
  - G222 – Legal Issues in Emergency Management
  - G626 – Hazard Mitigation/Comprehensive Plan Interface
- **Was the cost of the CEM®/AEM<sub>SM</sub> factored into the decision to modify the PEM program?**  
Yes. In fact, the estimated cost of traveling to Lansing for the 11 required PEM courses is far greater than the membership and application fees for the CEM®/AEM<sub>SM</sub> certifications.
- **How will the MSP/EMHSD reallocate funding for the PEM training program?**  
Current federal emergency management grant funding will continue to be used toward training purposes, including development and delivery of the online training refresher, the MI-CEMKR modules and exam, and the delivery of courses offered by the MSP/EMHSD.
- **Can the MSP/EMHSD provide transcripts of previous training courses I attended?**  
Requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis for transcripts of courses completed through the MSP/EMHSD. To request a transcript, please contact the MSP/EMHSD Training and Exercise Section at (517) 322-6515.  
  
To request transcripts of courses completed through FEMA and EMI, you must complete the online request form available at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/downloads/tranrqst1.pdf>.
- **Additional Questions**  
Courses not listed through the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Training Center (EMHSTC) on MI-TRAIN should be requested through the EMHSD, Training and Exercise Section at (517) 322-6515.