

## Emergency Management Mentor of the Year Award 2026

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The Emergency Management Mentor of the Year Award recognizes an emergency management practitioner (mentor) who has demonstrated commitment to the field by providing an (or multiple) aspiring emergency manager (mentee) with professional mentorship which has resulted in positive achievements by the mentee and made a significant contribution in their overall professional growth and career development.

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### Eligibility

- An individual who is currently working or has retired from a local, state, tribal, military, federal government, non-Governmental Organization (NGO), or private sector as an employee, contractor, academic instructor, researcher, or volunteer working in the field of emergency management. Independent emergency management contractors / consultants are also eligible.
- If the nominee is currently working in the emergency management field, they must be a member of IAEM-USA in good standing as of the date nominated. If the nominee is retired, they must have been a member of IAEM-USA in good standing as of the last month of work.
- The nominee does not have to hold the CEM/AEM designation.
- The nominee must have lived and delivered services in the United States. If the nominee has retired, the nominee's current location of residence is not a consideration.
- Self-nominations are **not** allowed for this award category.
- The recipient does not need to attend the IAEM Annual Conference to be selected although they are strongly encouraged to participate in the conference. The IAEM Awards Committee or judges are not informed about conference registration and do not consider it in decision-making.
- Local and active-duty military emergency managers may also be nominated for this award.

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### Completing the Official Award Entry/Nomination

- **Method:** An entry **must** be submitted in English on the official IAEM awards portal available on the Membership Dashboard on the iaem.org website. Non-IAEM members who wish to submit an entry for this award must register as a Guest on the IAEM website to gain access to the awards portal. Non-members of IAEM must pay a \$75 entry fee. All entry details must be complete, or the entry will be disqualified. Please note some fields have word count limitations.
- **Supporting Materials:** One (1) Letter of Nomination (maximum two pages) and two (2) Letters of Support (maximum one-page) are required. The Letter of Nomination should be from the mentee who has directly received positive professional mentorship from the nominee (mentor). Letters of Support may be from anyone, as determined by the mentee(s), who can validate the nominee's actions in providing professional mentorship

as required in the judging criteria. The Letter of Nomination and Letters of Support must be on official letterhead and signed by the author. Submitted documents should be concise.

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### Judging Criteria

Documentation of the following criteria must be submitted via the awards portal including or within the Letter of Recommendation and support documents.

Category	Documentation	Weight
Professional Guidance	Describe the professional guidance which has been provided by the nominee to the mentee. Provided details of the usefulness of that guidance towards the 1) overall professional growth of the mentee and 2) how it has inspired and positively affected the mentee's career path. Use specific details.	30%
Knowledge Shared	Describe specific knowledge shared by the nominee with the mentee that has instilled a deeper understanding of the emergency management field. Additionally, describe how the nominee aided the mentee in professional achievement or goal completion.	25%
Relevant Experience	Describe specific experiences shared by the nominee with the mentee that have positively increased the practical skillset of the mentee to perform emergency management functions, or job duties.	25%
Availability/Time Investment	Describe the amount of time the nominee has provided for the mentee and the degree of availability the mentor has provided.	20%

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### Judging Process

The award entries will be judged based on the compliance of content requirements explained above. All award entries will be evaluated through an unbiased selection process. Only written documentation via entries and uploads on the awards portal will be reviewed. Incomplete entries will not be considered. Judges are assigned by the Awards & Recognition Committee Chair or designee. Judges who have a conflict-of-interest as defined in the IAEM Code of Conduct will be recused from judging that entry. Judges will provide a recommendation for selection of one recipient of this award to the IAEM-USA Awards and Recognition Committee whose decisions are final. Any questions can be referred to the Awards and Recognition Committee Chair.

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### Announcements of Award Results

Once the USA Awards and Recognition Committee confirms the award recipient, IAEM Headquarters will notify the recipient, the nominator, and the recipient's IAEM Region President. Additionally, nominators of entries not selected will be notified.

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**Questions**

If you have a question about this award or its criteria, please email: [awards@iaem.com](mailto:awards@iaem.com). Phone calls are not accepted. Email questions prior to the entry deadline. Late submissions will not be accepted.