

Rising Star Award 2026

The Rising Star Award recognizes someone new to the emergency management profession who has displayed enthusiasm, innovation, and commitment, has made significant contributions to the field, and has been working in the emergency management profession for five years or less.

Eligibility

- A practitioner of emergency management who is currently working and has worked five years or less in the emergency management profession. The time considered for this nominee must have begun work in the emergency management profession on or after January 1, 2020, for an award presented in 2026.
 - The Nominee must work and deliver services within the United States.
 - The Nominee must be a member of IAEM-USA in good standing as of the date the nomination is submitted.
 - Self-nominations are **not** allowed for this award category.
 - The recipient does not need to be present at 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.
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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. It is recommended that the Letter of Nomination be from a supervisor or professional colleague. At least one of the supporting documents must verify job performance but should not be a Performance Appraisal. Letters of Support may be from anyone who can validate the nominee's qualifications 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
Accomplishments	Describe accomplishments achieved by the nominee to articulate why the nominee is award worthy. Accomplishments must convey a benefit and a measurable impact.	30%
Job Performance	Illustrate how the nominee has performed emergency management-related tasks in a superior capacity. Verification must be included in at least one of the supporting documents.	20%
Innovative Programs	Provide a minimum of three (3) examples of innovative programs where the nominee demonstrates leadership and initiative.	20%
Experience	Define the nominee’s work and emergency management experience, include list of certifications, licenses, awards, and honors obtained by the nominee. Highlights of training and education are considered; however, a college-level degree is not required.	15%
Community:	Describe nominee’s non-work-related community contributions.	15%

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.

Announcement 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.

Questions

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