

IAEM Uniformed Services Uniformed Emergency Manager of the Year Award 2026

The IAEM-USA Uniformed Services Uniformed Emergency Manager of the Year Award recognizes one individual serving in the uniformed services of the United States who has consistently demonstrated significant contributions to the field of emergency management while continuously self-developing as an emergency manager.

Eligibility

- Uniformed members may be Active Duty, Guard, or Reservists for any branch of service.
 - Self-nominations are **not** allowed.
 - The nominee does **not** have to be a member of IAEM.
 - The nominee should be performing emergency management as their primary function.
 - The nominee will be judged on contributions and achievements during the 18-month period from July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025.
 - The nomination may be submitted by anyone other than the nominee, but one letter of endorsement must be provided by an O-6/GS-15 equivalent level (or above) from the nominee's chain of command. One person may nominate multiple individuals.
 - 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 the *Clayton R. Christopher Memorial Award* and the *Emergency Manager of the Year* awards respectively. If selected for either of these awards, another entry will be considered for the *Uniformed Emergency Manager of the Year* award. Separate entries are required for each 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 endorsement from an O-6/GS-15 equivalent level or above from the nominee's chain of command is required. The nomination letter must include contact information for both the person being nominated for the award, as well as the nominator. Do not append or attach additional letters of support to the Letter of Nomination; instead, integrate any supporting details from supervisors or others into the second page of the nomination form as an enclosure to include additional significant achievements and contributions.

Judging Criteria

Documentation of the following criteria must be submitted via the awards portal and within the Letter of Nomination.

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.	40%
Job Performance	Illustrate how the nominee has performed emergency management-related tasks in a superior capacity.	30%
Technical Competence	Explain the nominee's technical competence in performing emergency management-related functions and activities.	10%
Leadership Abilities	Describe the nominee's ability to lead people in emergency management work; include lists of citations of leadership qualifications, recognition, awards, etc.	10%
Initiative	Illustrate how the nominee has taken initiative in accomplishing emergency management-related tasks.	5%
Resourcefulness	Describe how the nominee has been resourceful in accomplishing emergency management-related tasks when resources are scarce, non-existent, or unavailable.	5%

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.