



Call for Nominations: 2020 EMAT Annual Awards

Hello,

You are invited to submit nominations for the 2020 Emergency Management Association of Texas Annual Awards!

The past several years has seen a marked decrease in the number of award applications received. If the purpose of the EMAT Annual Awards Program is to “recognize the achievements and hard work of the individuals, organizations and jurisdictions that have made exceptional efforts to further the field of emergency management” then the program itself needs to reflect those goals. We need to reverse the decline.

To that end, we have made revisions to the awards criteria this year. The challenge in changing the program is to broaden the eligibility while maintaining its integrity. The changes to date are intended as a step toward a larger revision of the program. EMAT Awards are not participation trophies but an effort to recognize the achievements made by jurisdictions, regardless of size or resources.

It is also about creating value for our members and the residents they serve. For many receiving an EMAT award can be a key part of your internal and external marketing. It is a way to trumpet your accomplishments to community. And it is a way to recognize the hard work of your teams and your partners, the work that goes above and beyond the expected. And the work that improves our profession and our state.

So this year, I encourage you help us deliver on the purpose of the EMAT Awards. Recognize the extraordinary work that you and your partners have done in 2019 by submitting an award nomination. Tell us your stories and help us elevate emergency management.

This year will also feature a session on the final morning of the conference featuring a short presentation by each award recipient. Sharing best practices is a key component of our field and the addition of this forum is one more step in adding value to the EMAT Awards.

Award nominations should be submitted to oemjic@oem.hctx.net no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 6, 2019. **No late entries will be accepted.** Supporting documentation (photos, URL links, etc) should be submitted contemporaneously.

Winners will be announced at the 13th Annual EMAT Symposium February 23-26, 2020. For more information on the symposium, go to emat-tx.org.

Brian Murray
Interim Chair – Awards Committee



2020 EMAT AWARDS

Purpose of the EMAT Annual Awards

The purpose of the EMAT Annual Awards Program is to recognize the achievements and hard work of the individuals, organizations and jurisdictions that have made exceptional efforts to further the field of emergency management and to ensure a whole community approach to preventing, preparing for, mitigating against, responding to and recovering from disasters.

EMAT President's Award

Purpose of the EMAT President's Award

The EMAT President's Award is awarded to individuals who, in the opinion of the EMAT President, have risen to the call and supported the Association and its goals in a manner that goes above and beyond what would be expected. Your selection as a recipient of the President's Award places you in good company, as in our organizations 20+ year history, only four members have been awarded with this honorable accolade.

Years of dedication to multiple EMAT committees and the board, tireless efforts to make certain that our organization is well-represented and invaluable attention to our public image make people indispensable assets to EMAT. Qualities listed above are necessary traits for the President's Award winner. Contributions such as these over the years are immeasurable and perfectly exemplify that EMAT and the President's Award are all about.



EMAT Service Awards

EMAT Distinguished Service Award

The highest award EMAT gives to honor current members who, through their long-term efforts, have clearly influenced the work of the Association in a positive manner.

Eligible recipients: All current paid members who have been active in the Association for three or more years.

Criteria for Award: This award may not be awarded every year. This award recognizes and honors the member who invests time and talent to make positive changes in the Association by:

- Developing and implementing new programs for the Association;
- Helping the Association grow and achieve its goals and objectives;
- Working for positive long-term changes within the Association; or
- Providing leadership that inspires other members to excel or make the impossible happen.
- At least one of the activities listed in the nomination must have occurred during the previous calendar year (2019).



EMAT Lifetime Achievement Award

This award honors and acknowledges the superior achievement, over an entire career, of a member of the emergency management community whose dedication to the betterment of the field in Texas is evident by substantially influencing emergency management efforts state-wide.

Eligible recipients: Any member of the emergency management community who has at least 20 years of service directly involved in the emergency management field. Nominees may be retired from emergency management and do not have to be EMAT members. This award is not limited to emergency management coordinators but is open to all who work in the field including planners, contractors, PIOs, first responders, etc.

Award selection: The EMAT Board of Directors will review nominations for this award and will select the Award Recipient.

Criteria for Award: This is a periodic award, which can be given to more than one person through a selective process. This award recognizes and honors a member of the emergency management community who has dedicated his/her career to the field of emergency management across the State by:

- Influencing emergency management programs state-wide (not limited to just one region);
- Serving in a leadership capacity in a state-wide emergency management program, society or organization;
- Developing and implementing highly effective programs;
- Engaging in collaborative efforts to further emergency management programs and activities;
- Applying innovative ideas and/or creative techniques that enhance local and regional emergency management programs;
- Managing extraordinary response and recovery efforts to major disasters;
- Demonstrating a significant impact on the emergency management field that sets him or herself apart through remarkable contributions in the professional arena and strong leadership within his/her community.



EMAT “Lou Harrell” Emergency Manager of the Year Award

This award honors the EMAT member responsible for the development and implementation of distinguished local emergency management programs in Texas.

Eligible recipients: All current paid members who serve in local units of government such as cities, towns, counties, special districts, and the private sector as the Emergency Management Coordinator for at least 5 years.

Criteria for Award: This is an annual award. This award recognizes and honors the Emergency Management Coordinator whose comprehensive emergency management program epitomized the best in Texas emergency management during the past calendar year (2019) by:

- Developing and implementing a highly effective program in the absence of other sophisticated programs or adequate agency support;
- Applying innovative ideas and/or creative techniques that enhance the local emergency management program;
- Managing an extraordinary response and recovery effort to a major disaster;
- Facilitating the enhancement of emergency management through collaborative efforts; or
- Demonstrating a significant impact on the emergency management field that sets him or herself apart through remarkable contributions in the professional arena and strong leadership within his/her community.
- *Recommendation (not a requirement): Has earned a TEM and/or CEM certification.*



Emergency Management Association of Texas

EMAT Annual Awards Program

EMAT Excellence in Emergency Management Award

This award recognizes outstanding state and local emergency management programs, projects, activities and campaigns that further the goals of saving lives and protecting property by mitigating, preventing, preparing for, responding to, or recovering from disasters and emergencies in Texas.

Eligible recipients: All local, state, non-profit organizations, school systems, public health entities (including hospitals), and private sector emergency management organizations in Texas.

Criteria for Award: This is an annual award given to one recipient per DPS region. This award recognizes and honors outstanding emergency management programs or organizations that have developed and implemented an outstanding emergency management project, activity or campaign in Texas during the past calendar year (2019) by:

- Implementing innovative programs, plans, or services that further the emergency management profession or enhance public safety;
- Helping new emergency managers grow and achieve within the profession;
- Implementing an innovative mentoring program for Texas emergency management students;
- Achieving change within EMAT or other professional emergency management organizations; or
- Inspiring colleges to excel for the betterment of the emergency management profession.



EMAT Outstanding Media Award

This award recognizes exemplary efforts on the part of the broadcast, electronic and print media during the past calendar year (2019) to increase information and/or awareness of emergency management issues with the general public in Texas. This award is **not** for social media efforts or Public Information Officers (PIOs).

Eligible recipients: All local, regional and state-wide media outlets (magazines, newspapers, radio, television, etc.) with offices in Texas.

Criteria for Award: This is an annual award given to multiple recipients. This award recognizes and honors local, regional and state-wide media outlets that increase information and/or awareness of emergency management issues with the general public in Texas during the past calendar year (2019) by:

- Broadcasting or publishing a special series covering an emergency management issue or topic;
- Running a public awareness campaign on an emergency management issue;
- Developing and distributing instructional pamphlets dealing with emergency management issues; or
- Providing extraordinary coverage during a disaster in Texas.



EMAT Outstanding Public Information Award

This award recognizes exemplary efforts on the part of jurisdictions and organizations during the past calendar year (2019) to increase information and/or awareness of emergency management issues with the general public in Texas.

Eligible recipients: Any local or regional jurisdiction, public, and/or private-sector Public Information Officer/Office in Texas. This award is **not** for media-outlets.

Criteria for Award: This is an annual award given to multiple recipients. This award recognizes and honors PIO activities of local, regional, non-profit, or private-sector organizations that increase information and/or awareness of emergency management issues with the general public in Texas by:

- Developing a public awareness campaign on an emergency management issue;
- Developing and distributing instructional pamphlets dealing with emergency management issues;
- Using inventive or creative ways to communicate with the public; or
- Providing extraordinary emergency public information during a disaster in Texas.



EMAT Emergency Management Technology & Innovation Award

This award recognizes the development, or innovative use, of technology and/or an innovation that improves local-level emergency management preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation, and/or protection operations; emergency public information; or the emergency management profession in Texas. This includes technology solutions developed by local emergency management agencies using common development platforms (SharePoint, Google Maps, etc.). Projects may be eligible if the work was done by that agency and no grant funds were used in the process.

This award is **not** for contracted products, projects or programs developed by a third party with grant funds obtained specifically for that purpose.

Eligible recipients: Any local or regional-level emergency management program in Texas.

Criteria for Award: This is an annual award which may be given to multiple recipients. This award recognizes and honors local and/or regional-level programs which developed and implemented a technology product, project, or innovation in Texas during the previous calendar year (2019) which:

- Was developed at the local or regional level; and
- Was successfully implemented and tested during an exercise, special event, or emergency circumstance; and
- Can be replicated at little or no cost by other local or regional programs.



Emergency Management Association of Texas

EMAT Annual Awards Program

EMAT Community Service Award

This award recognizes the person who in the past calendar year (2019) has provided leadership, guidance, facilities, equipment, or support to an emergency management program, a community, or the profession in the furtherance of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, or recovery activities. This is an annual award given to one recipient per DPS region.



EMAT Emergency Management Student Award

This award recognizes and honors the outstanding contributions to the field of emergency management by emergency management students during the past calendar year (2019).

Eligible recipients: Any regularly enrolled undergraduate and graduate students during the previous calendar year (2019) seeking degrees in emergency management who have completed at least 24 semester hours, 15 semester hours of which were emergency management course work (undergraduates) or at least 12 semester hours, 6 semester hours of which were emergency management course work (graduates).

Criteria for Award: This is an annual award given to multiple recipients. This award recognizes and honors the students making the greatest contributions to the emergency management profession in Texas during the past calendar year (2019) by:

Undergraduate Student Criteria:

- Having been enrolled as a student during at least part of the previous calendar year (2019); and
- Completing at least 24 semester hours, 15 semester hours of which were emergency management course work; and
- Maintaining a 3.5 or higher grade point average in emergency management and related academic courses; and
- Serving in a leadership capacity in an Emergency Management student and/or honors organization; and
- Promoting emergency management knowledge in the community through public awareness campaigns; or
- Dedicating time and energy to further the goals of emergency management in various activities and endeavors.
- *Recommendation (not a requirement): Successfully completing an internship program in a local, state, or federal emergency management agency (or related disaster relief organization);*



EMAT Emergency Management Student Award

Graduate Student Criteria:

- Having been enrolled as a student during at least part of the previous calendar year (2019); and
- Completing at least 12 semester hours, 6 semester hours of which were emergency management course work; and
- Maintaining a 3.5 or higher grade point average in emergency management and related academic courses; and
- Serving in a leadership capacity in an Emergency Management student and/or honors organization; and
- Contributing to the knowledge base of emergency management by presenting papers at conferences and/or publishing in academic and/or practitioner journals;
- Promoting emergency management knowledge in the community through public awareness campaigns; or
- Dedicating time and energy to further the goals of emergency management in various activities and endeavors.