

**CELEBRATING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUR PROFESSION**

**EMAT AWards program 2021**

# EMAT AWARDS PROGRAM

## 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 Awards are an opportunity to recognize your colleagues in the emergency management field, to tell the story of your organization, and to help create a record of best practices.

## Nomination Information

* The EMAT Awards Program accepts award nominations until January 22, 2021. Submit your nomination at: <https://forms.gle/jDAoiJLEJ3cq6Jgz7>
* Award nominations can only be submitted by an EMAT member in good standing (e.g., has paid annual dues, etc.), although some award nominations can be for individuals and organizations that are not EMAT members.
* Self-nominations are not allowed unless specified within the award description. A member can make a nomination for an individual or work within their organization/agency.

## Selection

* Unless otherwise noted, selection of winners is at the discretion of the Awards Committee.
* The Committee may grant an award in a different category than where initially nominated if it is determined that the subject is worthy but inappropriate for the originally submitted category.

## Award Presentation

2021 EMAT Award Presentations will take place at a virtual ceremony coinciding with the 14th Annual EMAT Virtual Symposium (date/time TBD).

## Nomination Guidance

EMAT Awards are intended to celebrate the best aspects of emergency management in Texas. To uphold the highest standards, please adhere to the criteria by which your nomination will be judged.

Successful nominations will reflect the following:

* Who Can Nominate - Award nominations can only be submitted by an EMAT member in good standing;
* Timeliness - All nominations, except for Lifetime Achievement, must be for activities and occurrences in the current year;
* Follow the Award Criteria – Use the criteria as a guide to writing your nomination. In most cases the criteria is very specific;
* Be Clear - Say what you mean and mean what you say;
* Make Your Case – Detail rules! Awards committee members make decisions based solely on the information provided. If the program or the achievements of the person isn’t adequately described, it may not appear worthy of the honor;
* Support Your Case – If possible, provide supporting documentation. Pictures, media clips, maps, or other items can help judges visualize the nomination;
* Size Does Not Matter - Texas is a big state with a wide range of populations. What seems like a small program to a big county may have significant, transformative impacts in a smaller one. If you feel something or someone fits the criteria, nominate it; and
* Individuals/agencies are only eligible to receive one award per year. The President’s Award and Lifetime Achievement Award do not count toward this criteria. This means that an agency may be recognized for an achievement and a member of its staff may be recognized either of these awards.

## EMAT President’s Award

This award is given at the discretion of the President of the Association to recognize the contribution of an individual to Association and/or Emergency Management in the State of Texas. Nominations are not accepted for this award.

## 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.

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

**Criteria for Award:** This award is intended to recognize and honor EMAT members in good standing who invest 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 current calendar year.

## 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:** The Lifetime Achievement Award is limited to no more than two recipients annually. 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 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 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.

## 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 award is 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 by:

* Implementing innovative programs or projects that further the emergency management profession;
* Providing leadership to improve the emergency management profession or public safety outcomes;
* Mentoring new emergency managers or emergency management students to grow and achieve within the profession;
* Achieving change within EMAT or other professional emergency management organizations; or
* Inspiring college programs to excel for the betterment of the emergency management profession.

## EMAT Rising Star Award

This award is open to emergency managers with less than five years’ experience as a full-time emergency manager in the public or private sector. Nominees must be an EMAT member in good standing.

**Criteria for Award:** This award is given to one recipient per DPS region and cannot be won by the same person more than one time. This award is intended to recognize early-career emergency managers who have made significant contributions to the profession or to public safety in their first five years.

* Dedication to the emergency management profession by expanding one’s knowledge and understanding of programs, policies, and theory;
* Established track record of peer mentoring and leadership by example;
* Significant contribution to a major response or recovery effort;
* Demonstrated ability to develop collaborative relationships across the public and private sectors;
* Collaboration on the development and implementation of highly effective programs;

## EMAT Outstanding Public Information Award

This award recognizes exemplary efforts on the part of jurisdictions and organizations during the past calendar year 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. Media outlets are also eligible for this award.

**Criteria for Award:** This award may be 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 whole-community focused 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.
* Media outlets may be recognized for exceptional or innovative campaigns or coverage of emergency management related events.

## 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 award 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 which:

* Improves local-level emergency management preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation, and/or protection operations; emergency public information; or the emergency management profession in Texas; and
* 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.

## EMAT Community Service Award

This award is intended to honor the essential work of volunteer partners to the emergency management community.

**Eligible Recipient:** Persons who in the past calendar year 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.

**Criteria for Award:** This award is given to one recipient per DPS region. Nominees should:

* Made significant contributions to a major response or recovery operation;
* Provided material support to emergency managers in the Emergency Operations Center or in the field during response or recovery activities;
* Developed and implemented a community-level emergency preparedness program;
* Provided significant funding or leadership for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, or recovery activities;
* Provided or supported volunteer activities for a prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, or recovery activities.

## EMAT Emergency Management Student Scholarship Award

This award recognizes and honors the outstanding contributions to the field of emergency management by emergency management students during the past calendar year. Recipients will also receive a one-time $500 scholarship from EMAT to encourage their studies as well as a complementary Symposium attendance fee so that they can accept their award in person. This is limited to the Symposium fee and does not including food, travel, or lodging.

**Eligible recipients**: EMAT Student Members who are regularly enrolled undergraduate and graduate students (full or part-time) during the previous calendar year seeking degrees in emergency management who have completed:

* **Undergraduate:** At least 24 semester hours, 15 semester hours of which were emergency management course work
* **Graduate:** At least 12 semester hours, 6 semester hours of which were emergency management course work (graduates).

**Award Selection:** The Awards Committee will review nominations and supporting materials and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will make the final decision on making the award.

**Nomination Criteria:** Self-nomination. All applications must be accompanied by:

* An essay of not less than 1000 words describing how the applicant’s work meets the Award Criteria and their aspirations in the emergency management field;
* Completed Award Application; and
* At least one Letter of Recommendation from an instructor, professor, or other mentor in the emergency management community.

**Criteria for Award:** This award is given to one recipient annually. This award recognizes and honors the students making the greatest contributions to the emergency management profession in Texas during the past calendar year by:

Undergraduate Student Criteria:

* Having been enrolled as a student during at least part of the previous calendar year; and
* Maintaining a 3.5 or higher grade point average in emergency management and related academic courses;
* Serving in a leadership capacity in an Emergency Management student and/or honors organization;
* 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;
* **Recommended:** Successfully completing an internship program in a local, state, or federal emergency management agency (or related disaster relief organization);

Graduate Student Criteria:

* Having been enrolled as a student during at least part of the previous calendar year; and
* Maintaining a 3.5 or higher grade point average in emergency management and related academic courses;
* Serving in a leadership capacity in an Emergency Management student and/or honors organization;
* 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.