



# EMAT AWARDS PROGRAM 2023

CELEBRATING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND  
OUR PROFESSION



# 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 **December 23, 2022**. Go to <https://forms.gle/BJtz59ZxajL3tZQV7> and follow the instructions to make your nominations!
- 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. A member can make a nomination for an individual, project, or program within their organization/agency.

## Selection

- Unless otherwise noted, selection of award recipients is at the discretion of the Awards Committee.
- The Committee reserves the right to move a nomination to a different award category.
- If an award nomination is incomplete or unclear, the Committee will not consider the nomination.

## Award Presentation

Award presentations will take place at a ceremony coinciding with the 2023 EMAT Symposium.



## Nomination Guidance

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

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 accomplishments during the stated year (January – December 2022);
- Follow the Award Criteria – Use the criteria as a guide to writing your nomination. In some cases the criteria is very specific;
- Make Your Case – Details rule! Awards Committee members make decisions based solely on the information provided. If the program or the achievements nominated are not adequately described, they will not be considered;
- Support Your Case – If possible, provide supporting documentation. Pictures, media clips, maps, or other items can help the Committee visualize the nomination; and
- Individuals/agencies are only eligible to receive one award per year, the exception being the President’s Award and Lifetime Achievement Award.



## President's Award

**Purpose:** This award honors the person who is instrumental in carrying forward the goals and objectives of EMAT.

**Eligible recipients:** Recipients do not have to be current members of the Association and are only eligible to receive the award once in a lifetime.

**Award selection:** This award is given solely at the discretion of the EMAT President; nominations are not submitted for this award.

## Distinguished Service Award

**Purpose:** This award honors current members who, through their 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:** At least one of the activities listed in the nomination must have occurred during the stated calendar year (January-December 2022).

- Developed and implemented new programs for the Association; or
- Helped EMAT grow and achieve its goals and objectives; or
- Worked for positive changes within the Association; or
- Provided leadership that inspires other members to excel.



## Lifetime Achievement Award

**Purpose:** 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.

**Eligible recipients:** Any member of the emergency management community who has at least 20 years of service directly involved in the emergency management field with at least five years within the state of Texas. Nominees may be retired from emergency management. If the nominee is currently employed in the emergency management field, he/she must be a member of EMAT in good standing. If the nominee is a retired emergency management professional, he/she must have previously been a member of EMAT. This award is not limited to emergency management coordinators but is open to all who work directly in the emergency management field.

**Award selection:** The EMAT Awards Committee will review nominations and submit recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will select the Award Recipient. The Lifetime Achievement Award may be awarded to one recipient per year.

**Criteria for Award:** In addition to the nomination, at least three (3) additional letters of support from different entities are required. These letters of support must validate the nominee's qualifications as listed in the award criteria. All letters of support must be on official letterhead and signed by the author.

- Demonstrated a significant impact on the emergency management field that sets the nominee apart through remarkable contributions in the professional arena and strong leadership within his/her community;
- Influenced emergency management programs to excel outside of normal program duties;
- Served in a leadership capacity in a state-wide emergency management program, society, or organization;
- Engaged in collaborative efforts to further emergency management programs and activities;
- Applied innovative ideas, creative techniques, or best practices that enhance local and regional emergency management programs; or
- Managed new and innovative response and recovery efforts to local disasters.



## “Lou Harrell” Emergency Manager of the Year Award

**Purpose:** This award honors the Emergency Management Coordinator and EMAT member responsible for the development and implementation of distinguished local emergency management programs in Texas.

**Eligible recipients:** All current paid members in good standing who serve as the Emergency Management Coordinator in local units of government such as cities, towns, counties, and special districts, or the private sector for at least five consecutive years in Texas. This award is given to one recipient per year.

**Criteria for Award:** At least one of the activities described in the nomination must have occurred within the stated calendar year (January-December 2022).

- Developed and implemented an innovative or effective program in the absence of other sophisticated programs or adequate agency support;
- Applied innovative ideas, best practices, or creative techniques that enhance the local emergency management program;
- Increased collaborative efforts with non-traditional partners to improve emergency management operations and programs; or
- Demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities within his or her organization.



## Excellence in Emergency Management Award

**Purpose:** This award recognizes outstanding state and local emergency management programs, projects, activities, and campaigns that promote preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery, and resilience in Texas.

**Eligible recipients:** All local, state, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, public health entities (including hospitals), and private sector emergency management organizations in Texas. At least one member of the nominated organization must be a member of EMAT in good standing. This award is not for individuals. This award is given to one recipient annually per TDEM region.

**Criteria for Award:** The nominated activity should be a model that others may want to adopt and must have occurred within the stated calendar year (January-December 2022).

- Implemented innovative emergency management programs or projects;
- Promoted creative and collaborative preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery, or resilience activities in communities; or
- Led to the improvement of the emergency management profession.



## Public Service Award

**Purpose:** This award is intended to honor the exceptional efforts of individuals or teams who have provided leadership, guidance, or support to a community, emergency management program, or the emergency management profession.

**Eligible Recipient:** This award is open to volunteers as well as part-time and full-time professionals who support the emergency management field. Nominees do not have to be an EMAT member. This award is **NOT** for projects, programs, or campaigns. This award is given to one recipient per TDEM region.

**Criteria for Award:** The exceptional efforts of the nominated person or team must have occurred within the stated calendar year (January-December 2022). Document how the nominee has made a significant contribution outside of normal job duties to their community, emergency management program, or the profession in line with the stated purpose of this award.





## Rising Star Award

**Purpose:** This award is intended to recognize individuals early in their emergency management careers who have made significant contributions to the profession in their first five years.

**Eligible Recipients:** This award is open to full-time emergency management professionals in the public or private sector with less than five years' experience. Nominees must be an EMAT member in good standing. This award is given to one recipient per TDEM region; the same person cannot receive this award more than once.

**Criteria for Award:** At least two of the following award criteria must be demonstrated in the nomination.

- Established track record of peer mentoring and leadership by example;
- Demonstrated ability to develop collaborative relationships across the public and private sectors; or
- Increased collaborative efforts with non-traditional partners to improve emergency management operations and programs.



## Outstanding Public Information Award

**Purpose:** This award recognizes exemplary efforts and honors public information and educational 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.

**Eligible recipients:** Any local or regional jurisdiction, public, and/or private-sector public information officer or communications office in Texas. This award is **NOT** for media outlets. This award may be given to multiple recipients.

**Criteria for Award:** The activities listed in the nomination must have occurred within the stated calendar year (January-December 2022).

- Developed a whole community focused public awareness campaign on an emergency management issue;
- Developed and distributing educational materials addressing emergency management issues;
- Used innovative or creative ways to communicate with the public; or
- Provided extraordinary emergency public information during a disaster in Texas.



## Outstanding Media Award

**Purpose:** This award recognizes exemplary efforts on the part of the broadcast, electronic, and print media to increase information and/or awareness of emergency management issues with the general public in Texas.

**Eligible recipients:** All local, regional, and statewide media outlets (magazines, newspapers, radio, television, etc.) with offices in Texas. This award is **NOT** for public information officers (PIOs). This award that may be given to multiple recipients.

**Criteria for Award:** The activities listed in the nomination must have occurred within the stated calendar year (January-December 2022).

- Broadcasted or published a whole community public awareness campaign addressing an emergency management issue;
- Broadcasted or published a special series covering an emergency management issue or topic;
- Developed and distributed educational materials addressing emergency management issues; or
- Provided extraordinary media coverage during a disaster in Texas.



## Emergency Management Technology & Innovation Award

**Purpose:** This award recognizes and honors an original technology product, project, or innovation developed and implemented in Texas that improves emergency management operations. This includes original technology solutions developed using common development platforms (SharePoint, Google Maps, etc.).

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 individual, team, or emergency management organization in Texas. This award is open to the private sector. At least one member of the team or organization must be an EMAT member in good-standing. This award may be given to multiple recipients.

**Criteria for Award:** The nominated technology or innovation must have been developed within the stated calendar year (January-December 2022).

- Improved local or regional level emergency management operations, emergency public information, or the emergency management profession in Texas; and
- Developed at the local or regional level;
- 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.

