

Elizabeth B. Armstrong Award 2026

The Elizabeth B. Armstrong Award for Outstanding Contributions to Emergency Management is one of the most prestigious honors given by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). Named after IAEM's long-serving Executive Director, the award recognizes individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the goals and work of IAEM as an association, not just to the field of emergency management broadly.

Eligibility

- The Elizabeth B. Armstrong Award is not for general excellence in emergency management, it is specifically awarded for outstanding contributions to the strength, success, and sustainability of IAEM as an association.
 - Nominee does **not** have to be a member of IAEM.
 - The nominee does not have to hold the CEM/AEM designation.
 - The nominee must have lived and delivered services in the United States. If the nominee has retired, the nominee's current location of residence is not a consideration.
 - Self-nominations are **not** allowed for this award category.
 - 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.
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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) is required. Letters of Support may be from anyone who can validate the nominee's qualifications as required in the judging criteria. The Letter of Nomination 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
Advancing IAEM's Mission	Describe how the nominee actively supports the growth and visibility of IAEM through outreach, leadership, or program development. Additionally, how does the nominee contribute to the profession through IAEM-led initiatives, task forces, or committees.	30%
Leadership Within IAEM	Describe the leadership roles the nominee is serving in (e.g., regional vice president, board member, committee chair). How is the nominee creating or enhancing programs, policies, or procedures that improve IAEM operations or member services.	30%
Professional Development & Mentoring	Describe how the nominee is supporting certification programs like AEM/IAEM-CEM, and mentoring others in the profession through IAEM channels.	20%
Volunteerism and Service	Describe how the nominee is providing long-term, sustained volunteer service to the association. Additionally, describe how the nominee is going above and beyond in organizing conferences, training, or strategic initiatives.	10%
Innovative and Strategic Vision	Describe how the nominee is leading new efforts that result in tangible benefits to IAEM members or raise the profile of the organization on a national/international stage.	10%

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.

Announcements 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.