OEMA AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Oklahoma Emergency Management Association presents awards on an annual basis in order to recognize those individuals who have made significant contributions to the emergency management field in Oklahoma. Awards are presented at the 2027 OEMA Conference.

You must be a current OEMA member to submit a nomination. We now have a total of eleven award categories. New categories include Paid Deputy Director of the Year, Community Impact Award, Emergency Management Agency of the Year, & Critical Infrastructure Preparedness. Please read through the descriptions carefully to select the one best for your candidates.

These awards are especially important because the nominations come from peers. Please take some time tell us about a person or project that deserves to be noticed. **Please use the attached application form to submit your nominations. If additional space is needed, please attach to the application form. You will be notified before the event if your nominee is to be honored.**
Nominations must be submitted by Friday January 8th, 2027, to:
David Ball
Oklahoma Department Emergency of Management
PO Box 53365
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73152-3365, or EMAIL: awards@oema.org
Cell 405-802-6864

Paid Director of the Year:
Presented to a paid EM director in recognition of his or her outstanding work to better the profession. Criteria to be considered includes advanced training, community relations, program development, successful management of a disaster and contributions to the profession.

Paid Deputy Director of the Year:
Presented to a paid deputy EM director in recognition of his or her outstanding work to better the profession. Criteria to be considered includes advanced training, community relations, program development, successful management of a disaster and contributions to the profession.

Mickey Clarkson Award for Volunteer Director of the Year:
Presented to an unpaid EM director in recognition or their outstanding work to better the profession. Criteria to be considered include advanced training, program development, and successful management of a disaster, community relations and contributions to the profession.

Public Officials Award:
Recognize any elected or appointed public official in a city or county of Oklahoma who has given outstanding support to the emergency management program in their jurisdiction. This award can be given to an individual or a board.

Volunteer of the Year:
Presented to an emergency management volunteer, not acting as an EM director, in recognition of his or her outstanding work to better the profession. Criteria to be considered includes advanced training, community relations, program development, participation in a disaster and exercise, and contributions to the department.

Community Impact Award (Innovation or Response)

This Award Recognizes an individual (paid or volunteer), emergency management professional (director, deputy, staff), or partner organization (public, private, NGO, tribal) whose **sustained contributions and/or innovative project, program, or response action** produced a clear, positive, and measurable impact on emergency management capability in Oklahoma. Impact may be **statewide** or significantly benefit a **community or region** and should be scalable or replicable.

What Qualifies (Examples):

- Statewide contributions to planning, training, policy, or resource sharing.
- Innovative preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery, or resilience initiative.
- Technology or process improvement that measurably enhances EM operations.
- Public education/outreach that increases readiness or reduces risk.
- Response or recovery actions that saved lives, protected property, or improved outcomes for vulnerable/underserved populations.

OEMA Lifetime Contribution Award:
This award was developed to recognize OEMA members who have worked tirelessly to advance **OEMA** as an organization by expanding membership, being an advocate in OEMA's behalf, or have developed strong and dependable emergency management systems in their own jurisdictions, mentored other association members, and forged partnerships that advance emergency management across the state and nation. Members receiving this award have gone above and beyond the call of their initial emergency management responsibilities and have made significant impacts on the Association and in the field of emergency management expanding over the course of time, in many cases spanning decades.

OEMA Good Neighbor Award:
This award was developed to recognize the Emergency Management Director, Deputy Director, staff person, or volunteer who provided exemplary assistance to a neighboring jurisdiction or emergency manager. Whether by assisting during a disaster event, or in the day to day activities of emergency management, this person has shared his or her experience and expertise with others across the State. Emergency Management is all about providing critical resources when they are needed. The person receiving this award will have provided the right help at the right time, having significant impact on another emergency manager's program.

Emergency Management Agency of the Year:
This award honors a local, county, or tribal emergency management agency that exemplifies excellence in all areas of emergency management. The selected agency will have demonstrated leadership, innovation, effective planning, successful disaster response or recovery, strong interagency collaboration, and a commitment to public education and preparedness. This agency stands out as a model of professionalism and service to its community and the State of Oklahoma.

Critical Infrastructure Preparedness Award:
This Award Recognizes an emergency management, continuity, resilience, or safety leader (individual or core team) from a **critical infrastructure or essential services organization**—public, private, nonprofit, or tribal—who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and innovation in preparedness, response, recovery, and business/mission continuity. Through excellence in risk reduction, planning, coordination of interdependent systems with public partners, and the sustainment or rapid restoration of essential services, the nominee produced measurable benefits for their organization **and** the surrounding community, region, or state. This award highlights the vital contribution that non-governmental and private-sector emergency management professionals make to the overall resilience of Oklahoma.

ODEM Bridge Builder Award:
This award is presented to the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management employee who demonstrates exceptional leadership, compassion, and cooperation in coordinating with local emergency managers to further the mission of emergency management in Oklahoma. The person receiving this award may assist the local emergency management community in area coordination, training, mitigation, disaster exercises, public information, preparing plans, disaster recovery or other facets of emergency management. As important as the help itself, the person receiving this award has won the heart appreciation of the Oklahoma Emergency Management Association by the manner in which they helped us in a time of need.

Please see next page for application. Remember that the Awards Committee makes the selections based solely on the information you provide. The more detail and supporting documents you can include will help the committee come to a decision. Thanks!

OEMA AWARD APPLICATION

Please complete the application below to submit your nomination for one of the eleven categories to be honored during the 2027 OEMA Conference.

Your Name:_____ Your Jurisdiction:_____

Your Contact Number: _____

Your Email Address: _____

Nominee's Name: _____

Nominee's Jurisdiction: _____

I am nominating this person for (please select one):

- ☐ Paid Director of the Year
- ☐ Paid Deputy Director of the Year
- ☐ Mickey Clarkson for Volunteer Director
- ☐ Public Officials Award
- ☐ Volunteer of the Year
- ☐ Community Impact Award
- ☐ OEMA Lifetime Contribution
- ☐ Good Neighbor Award
- ☐ EM Agency of the Year
- ☐ Critical Infrastructure Preparedness
- ☐ ODEM Bridge-Builder Award

Using the space below, please describe the contributions your nominee has made to Oklahoma's emergency management program. What makes this individual outstanding and deserving of this honor? **Please attach all supporting documents, including news clippings, certificates, etc.**

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PROTECTION
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