



Maine Association of Local Emergency Managers

2026 Emergency Management Awards

Award Categories and General Rules

The awards listed below are to be presented to outstanding contributors to the field of emergency management in each of the selected categories. Each award will be presented to a single individual based on their dedication, leadership, and contributions to emergency management in Maine.

Calls for nominations are open from January 19, 2026 through February 20, 2026 via [the nomination form found here](#). The MALEM Awards & Scholarship Committee will review nominations during March with recipients being notified by early April. Presentations of awards will occur during a MALEM meeting or event in 2026 (tentatively May), date and location to be determined.

- **Service Award**

This award is presented to an individual who has put service before self in the field of emergency management in Maine. This person brings new ideas, strategies, and approaches to their positions, creating positive impacts for their communities. The recipient of this award will be a creative trend-setter for the field, building resilience and innovation to ensure enduring change for the field within the state from exhibiting leadership with individual or team contributions.

- **Lifetime Achievement Award**

This award is presented to a Maine professional possessing at least 15 years of dedicated service to the field of emergency management at the local, county, state, or federal level. The recipient of this award is a documented leader in the field, an individual who has provided major contributions to bettering emergency management within Maine, and who has influenced and developed future generations of emergency managers. Individuals may remain eligible for this award for up to two years following retirement.

- **Student of the Year Award**

This award is presented to a student who has exhibited a great curiosity to learn and develop their skill set for the field of emergency management through their coursework and associated extracurricular activities. This student's distinctive leadership abilities and service to the profession are displayed through their professionalism in their academic program, internship opportunities, volunteer role(s), and/or paid position(s). Students must be enrolled in an emergency management degree program within Maine or residents of Maine studying emergency management.

- **Emerging Professional Award**

This award is presented to an emerging professional in the field of emergency management who has been employed in the field for less than 5 years. This individual has exhibited a solid understanding of emergency management, has provided significant positive contributions to their position, and has demonstrated the potential and commitment for excellence in service to their community.

- **Mentorship Award**

This award is presented to an individual for their role in supporting, encouraging, and promoting a positive and inclusive environment and for contributing to the professional and personal development of others in emergency management. Mentorship involves not only successful work projects but also guidance and motivation of others regarding personal matters, and shepherding of individuals' interests and passions.