



2018 The American Legion Department Firefighter of the Year Award



WHAT, WHY and HOW -

1. **SCOPE:** The Safety, Law and Order Committee, with a mandate by Resolution from The Department Convention in 2004, have established the following guidelines for a Department Firefighter of the Year Award. As we join the ranks of other departments promoting this award, our hope is to have this become a National Award soon.
2. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this letter of instruction is to specify the guidelines, eligibility criteria and application requirements for selection and presentation of a Firefighter of the Year Award. The major purpose of this award, is to encourage the further development of Department and Post Safety, Law and Order Committees in all Divisions in recognition of Firefighters by Posts, Divisions and the Department Headquarters of The American Legion.
3. **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:** To be eligible for consideration, Department nominees must meet the following criteria:
 - a: Be a citizen of the United States, male or female.
 - b: Be a living, active, full-time either paid or volunteer Firefighter.
 - c: Consideration for a posthumous award will be acceptable only if the nominee's death has occurred after the Department's selection and within the dates for which the award is being presented.
 - d: Be assigned to a Municipal (City), County, or Fire Protection District or U.S. Military or Federal Firefighter.
 - e: Department nominees need not be a veteran nor a member of The American Legion.
 - f: Reside and be assigned or attached for duty in the Department from which they are selected.
 - g: Federal Firefighters serving in overseas Departments may be nominated by the overseas Department.
 - h: Nominees selected for this award shall be available to receive this award at The American Legion Department Convention.
4. **DEPARTMENT APPLICATION PACKETS:** Department application packets for their nominee should not exceed 10 typewritten, legible pages, on 8 1/2" x 11" bond paper and should consist of the following documentation:

- a: Application form--Complete the attached application form and use it as the first page or cover page of the application.
- b: The goal of the National Law and Order Committee is to select a well-rounded firefighter who has exceeded, above and beyond, the duty requirements of his/her position and who exemplifies the virtues of professionalism and dedication and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service to his/her community, State or Nation; and also has proven his/her personal dedication to societal security and protection. The firefighter must be recommended by his/her Commanding Officer or Supervisor for this award. The Commanding Officer or Supervisor should also state that the firefighter, if selected for this award, will be available for its presentation at the Department Convention. Specific acts of heroism and meritorious citations presented by his/her Fire Dept. or Fire District should be included and documented.
The application packet should be subdivided into the following categories:

Section I	Professional Career
Section II	Community Service
Section III	Heroism
Section IV	Letters of Recognition
Section V	News Clippings—if available



MATTHEW BURLESON

*Lieutenant
Waukegan Fire Department*



2017

**Department
Firefighter
of the Year
Award Winner**

*Sponsored by:
Homer Daringer
Post 281
Waukegan, IL*

“... to maintain Law and Order.”

- c: Community Service: Outstanding service to the Community, State or Nation by the firefighter, in both on-duty and off-duty activities, should be explained for the past year and may include previous years. Cite, for example, awards and/or supporting letters from City or County Commissioners, letters from State officials and letters from The American Legion Department or Posts, or from citizens attesting to and commending the firefighter for his/her community service contributions.
 - d: Citations for heroism or meritorious performance of duty should be explained for the past year and may include previous years. Include citations and any supporting letters from the firefighter's chain of command as well as other documentation from City, County, State authorities and American Legion officials as further evidence of heroic and/or meritorious performance of duty by the firefighter.
 - e: Include a copy of your nominee's State or Federal certification as a firefighter as well as copies of pertinent training and education certificates as appropriate.
 - f: Include a full-length color or black and white photo of the nominee.
 - g: The Department which submits the winning nominee will be notified by certified mail as expeditiously as possible.
 - h: Remember to let your nominee know what The American Legion Department Firefighter of the Year Award is, and receive assurance from the firefighter's chain of command that if your nominee is selected as the winner that he/she will be available for the award presentation at the Department Convention. The winning officer is requested to appear in full uniform at The Department Convention at the time of presentation.
5. All efforts have been expended, and will continue to be expended, to assure fairness and impartiality to all Department nominees. We strongly believe that the presentation of the Department Firefighter of the Year award will reflect great credit on all Firefighters and agencies, communities and states, our Nation and The American Legion. It is our underlying hope that this award program will also further encourage such recognition of "America's Finest" at the Post and Department levels.

Delmar Buske, Chairman
Safety, Law & Order Committee



APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO DIVISION CHAIRMEN NO LATER THAN MAY 29, 2018

Scan here to
visit our
website



Safety, Law & Order Division Chairmen

1st Div., 8th Dist.	<i>Ricky N. Serrano</i>	3727 W. 216th St.	Matteson, IL 60443	(708) 822-4935 EMAIL: Ricky.Serrano@carriageservices.com
2nd Div., 11th Dist.	<i>Charles Coffey</i>	40W015 Seavey Rd.	Batavia, IL 60510	(630) 508-8142 EMAIL: cfcoff@yahoo.com
3rd Div., 20th Dist.	<i>Ronald A. Payne, Vice Chairman</i>	919 995 N. Ave.	Mt. Sterling, IL 62353	(217) 370-0638 EMAIL: paynetech@hotmail.com
4th Div., 21st Dist.	<i>Delmar R. Buske, Chairman</i>	904 N. Van Buren St.	Litchfield, IL 62056	(217) 556-9555 EMAIL: delmarbuske@yahoo.com
5th Div., 23rd Dist.	<i>David K. Harris</i>	350 E 2500 Ave.	Bingham, IL 62011	(618) 292-2248 EMAIL: harrispolice52@yahoo.com

The American Legion

Department Firefighter of the Year

Application Form

Date_____

Name_____ Sex_____

Home Address_____

City_____ Zip_____ Phone(_____)_____ - _____

Age_____ Marital Status_____ Spouse's Name_____

Length of Service as Firefighter_____

Firefighters Title_____

Agency Name_____

Agency Director_____ Title_____

Nominee's Supervisor_____ Title_____

Agency Address_____

City_____ Zip_____ Phone(_____)_____ - _____

Sponsoring Post Name_____ No._____ District_____ Division_____

Address_____ City_____ Zip_____

Post Commander's Name_____

Address_____ City_____ Zip_____

Local radio/TV station serving area

Local newspaper serving area

Signature of Division Chairman

Date

Signature of Post Commander

Date

Application Deadline: **May 29, 2018** (Return to Division Chairmen)

