



# 2022 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 |

- 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



**2021  
Department  
Firefighter of the  
Year Award  
Winner**

**Dave Zahn**

Belleville Fire  
Department

Sponsored by:  
Belleville Post 1255

“... to maintain Law and Order.”

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 31, 2022**

Scan here to  
visit our  
website



**Safety, Law & Order Division Chairmen**

1st Div., 3rd Dist.	<i>Gary Whyte</i>	4521 S. Woodlawn Ave.	Chicago, IL 60653	(773) 860-7013 EMAIL: <a href="mailto:gdwhyte@sbcglobal.net">gdwhyte@sbcglobal.net</a>
2nd Div., 11th Dist.	<i>Charles Coffey</i>	40W015 Seavey Rd.	Batavia, IL 60510	(630) 508-8142 EMAIL: <a href="mailto:cfcoff@yahoo.com">cfcoff@yahoo.com</a>
3rd Div., 20th Dist.	<i>Amanda Congdon</i>	919 995 N. Ave.	Mt. Sterling, IL 62353	(309) 333-4807 EMAIL: <a href="mailto:ascta1@gmail.com">ascta1@gmail.com</a>
4th Div., 21st Dist.	<b><i>Delmar R. Buske, Chairman</i></b>	904 N. Van Buren St.	Litchfield, IL 62056	(217) 556-9555 EMAIL: <a href="mailto:delmarbuske@yahoo.com">delmarbuske@yahoo.com</a>
5th Div., 23rd Dist.	<b><i>Wayne V. Madson, Vice Chairman</i></b>	1197 Mary Irene Rd.	New Baden, IL 62265	(618) 606-1408 EMAIL: <a href="mailto:madsonwsr@gmail.com">madsonwsr@gmail.com</a>

# 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 31, 2022** (Return to Division Chairmen)

