

20 FIREFIGHTER 26 of the Year



The American Legion

Department of Illinois
2720 E. Lincoln St.
Bloomington, IL 61704

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. Upholding the protection of American citizens and the American way of life has always been of the utmost importance to our organization. We seek to recognize outstanding firefighters who serve our communities and frequently lay their lives on the line. It is our sincere hope that this award will not only show well-deserved appreciation to those individuals, but to also continue to encourage further development of our Safety, Law & Order Committees at the post, District and Division levels.



2025 Firefighter of the Year Emily Zuh

Eligibility Criteria

1. Be a citizen of the United States, male or female.
2. Be a living, active, full-time paid, or volunteer firefighter
3. 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.
4. Be assigned to a Municipal (City), County, District or Fire Protection District or U.S. Military or Federal firefighter.
5. Reside and be assigned or attached for duty in the Department from which they are selected.
6. Nominees selected for this award shall be available to receive this award at The American Legion Department Convention.

*Department nominees need not be a veteran or member of The American Legion to be eligible.

*Federal agents serving in overseas departments may be nominated by the overseas department.

*Military police officers or investigators are not eligible for this award.

*Department nominees who have been previously submitted for this national award may be resubmitted if they have been re-selected by the Department.

Department Application Packets

Application packets for nominees should not exceed 10 pages (typed) on 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Please include:

1. Completed application form - used as cover page.
2. Documentation of specific acts of heroism and meritorious citations presented by his/her fire department or fire district.

Packets should be divided into the following:

Section I - Professional Career

Section II - Community Service :

Outstanding service to the Community, State or Nation by the firefighter, in both on-duty and off-duty activities. Cite, for example, awards and/or letters from City or County Commissioners, state officials, American Legion Departments or Posts, or from citizens commending and/or attesting his/her community service contributions.

Section III - Heroism

Citations for heroism or meritorious performance of duty for the past year (you may include previous years). Include citations and supporting letters from the officer's chain of command, documentation from City, County, State authorities and American Legion officials regarding heroic and/or meritorious performance of duty by the firefighter.

Section IV - Letters of Recognition

Section V - News Clippings

In addition, please include:

- a copy of your nominee's State or Federal certification as a law enforcement officer as well as copies of pertinent training and education certificates as appropriate
- full-length color or black and white photo of the nominee



For more information,
scan to visit our website.
www.illegion.org