



Dear Members of the Fire Service:

2016 marks the 36th year of the Ohio Fire Service Hall of Fame and Awards.

Your fire department or a fellow firefighter could be recognized for their act[s] above and beyond their basic duties and responsibilities, and for exemplifying the finest traditions of the fire service.

The Ohio Fire Council is charged by the General Assembly with officially recognizing and commemorating exemplary accomplishments and acts of heroism by firefighters and other persons at fire-related incidents or similar events occurring in Ohio.

At its annual event each September, the Ohio Fire Council also recognizes members of the fire service who were killed in the line of duty.

The Division of EMS at the Department of Public Safety recognizes individuals and departments that provide exemplary fire education and safety training with its annual Fire Awards program.

This year, the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal and the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS are joining together for the fourth year to honor all who serve Ohioans through the fire service.

The joint awards program provides an opportunity for more firefighters to participate in honoring the sacrifices made every day by their brethren, on behalf of communities across Ohio. Whether it is the time necessary to train in the latest firefighting techniques or time putting those skills to use, the men and women who sacrifice for the safety of others will be recognized in a special program in September at the State Fire Marshal's office.

Under the direction of the State Fire Council, the occurrence for the Valor and Citizen Awards has changed to include incidents that happened between June 1, 2015 and May 31, 2016.

Please accept the nomination form which follows. Review the criteria for the available awards and return the nomination form by **June 27th** to: web.sfm@com.ohio.gov or mail to: Division of State Fire Marshal, Attn: Tonia Smith, 8895 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH, 43068.

We hope to see you in September!

Larry Flowers
State Fire Marshal

Melvin House
Executive Director, Emergency Medical Services

SPECIAL NOTE: If you are submitting a nomination via email and you have not received confirmation from our office stating that we have received your submission, please contact Tonia Smith at tonia.smith@com.state.oh.us or (614) 752-7161. Some large files may not go through properly.



Ohio Fire Service Valor Award

SELECTION CRITERIA:

1. This award is conferred annually to members of the fire services in the State of Ohio **who at great personal risk to themselves, are credited with directly saving or attempting to save a life or lives** during an extreme emergency situation above and beyond the normal line of duty.
2. To be eligible for the award, an individual must have been an active member of a career or volunteer fire service in the State of Ohio at the time of the heroic act. **The incident shall have occurred between June 1, 2015 and May 31, 2016.**

NOMINATIONS:

1. The individual must be nominated by one of the following:
 - a. Any mayor, city manager, county commissioner, or township trustee.
 - b. Any member of the career or volunteer fire service.
 - c. Any retired member of the career or volunteer fire service.
 - d. Any fire association organization of the State of Ohio.
 - e. Any fraternal fire service organization of the State of Ohio.
 - f. Any president or chief executive of any fire service equipment or fire service related industry in the State of Ohio.
2. A nomination form is provided by the State Fire Council to serve as a cover and guideline for the submission of nominations.
The nomination must include a narrative statement by the nominator, either on the form or attached, specifically explaining why the nominated individual is worthy of receiving the award. In incidents where more than one individual is deemed worthy to receive this award, each must have separate nomination forms. The nomination must also include adequate supporting documents to substantiate the life -saving efforts and extreme conditions under which they occurred. These should include the official fire report, supplemental fire reports and narratives, news articles, and information on any other awards or recognition for the incident. **The total nomination submission may not exceed 20 8-1/2" x 11" pages of material (single-sided) or 10 pages back-to-back.**
3. All nominations should be typewritten.
4. **All nominations must be received by June 27, 2016.** Nominations received after the deadline will be returned to the nominee.

CONSIDERATION:

1. The State Fire Council will serve as the selection committee for this award. The council will convene during the month of July to consider all nominations submitted by the deadline.
2. In making an award, the Council will carefully consider and evaluate the nomination and supporting documents. Recognizing the hazardous nature of a firefighter's work, and the risks taken by the men and women of the fire service daily in the performance of their duty; it shall be the goal of the council to select from among the nominees, individuals who clearly went above and beyond the call of duty in effecting or attempting the rescue of others from the perils of the incident. In most instances, the Council members' knowledge of the incident is only through the nominating material. For this reason, it is imperative that the nomination and supporting documentation clearly and adequately describe the severity and intensity of the fire or other incident, the specific dangers which the nominee faced and overcame, and just why this act of valor was exceptional.
3. The Fire Council shall determine the most appropriate manner in which the award is to be presented. The decision of the State Fire Council as to individuals deserving of the Ohio Fire Service Valor Award is final.

