



MNICS AWARDS

Information

PURPOSE

MNICS Awards recognize achievement and outstanding performance of individuals and groups involved in incident command, wildland fire and emergency management.

CRITERIA

Selection criteria includes project leadership, positive impacts the individual or team has had on the MNICS organization; individual and team accomplishments along with commitment to the MNICS mission.

SOLICITATION

MNICS participants, associates, affiliates and past MNICS Incident Commanders will be notified through the website, email, social media or any means approved by MNICS Task Force.

NOMINATIONS

Anyone may submit a written nomination provided they are identified on the form.

For 2025 consideration, [submit nominations online](#) or to MNICSWeb.dnr@state.mn.us by October 10, 2025.

SELECTION

MNICS Task Force reviews all nominations and will make final award selections mid-October 2025. Please keep in mind that not all nominees are guaranteed to receive an award, nor are all categories guaranteed to have an award recipient and some categories may have more than one recipient. Decisions of the Task Force are final.

PRESENTATION

Awards will be presented during the annual MNICS Meeting in December. Recipient recognition and photos may be posted on the MNICS website, in articles or on social media.

MNICS MISSION

The mission of MNICS is to coordinate, educate and implement the Incident Command System to support fire and all hazard incidents in Minnesota and nationwide.

MNICS LEGACY AWARD

The **Legacy Award** commemorates the inception of the Minnesota Incident Command System. It honors the rare individuals who displayed outstanding leadership toward improving wildfire response and fostering successful state and federal partnerships throughout MNICS. Legacy Award recipients are recognized for their contributions that helped MNICS evolve, over the long term, into a nationally-recognized emergency response organization.

CRITERIA

Award recipient will be an individual who has provided significant and lasting contributions to the MNICS organization that has been substantially divested from MNICS for three or more years. S/he exhibited exceptional spirit of service, was instrumental in advancing MNICS mission and goals.

SELECTION

No limit to the number of Legacy Award recipients. Selection by MNICS Task Force is based on merit and consensus. Nominees not selected in 2025 are eligible for future nominations.

RECOGNITION

Formal recognition takes place at the annual MNICS Meeting, in MNICS publications, on web and social media sites.

MNICS Award Descriptions

INDIVIDUAL

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD

Recognizes outstanding individual performance by a member of a MNICS incident management team, working team, MNICS crew or project team.

CRITERIA: Individual exhibits outstanding performance and exception spirit of service to the MNICS organization. S/he supports and enhances MNICS mission and goals.

RECOGNITION AWARD: Framed certificate presented at the MNICS Meeting.

LEADERSHIP AWARD

Recognizes outstanding team member leadership qualities exhibited by a member of a MNICS incident management team, working team, MNICS crew or project team.

CRITERIA: Individual fosters improvement and advancement in in emergency management and incident command. S/he demonstrates outstanding leadership on a project, incident or event; supports safety and MNICS mission and goals.

RECOGNITION AWARD: Framed certificate presented at the MNICS Meeting.

SERVICE

RETIREMENT

Recognizes an individual who has been involved with the MNICS organization as a member of an incident management team, working team, Board of Directors, or Task Force and has retired within the past year.

REGOGNITION AWARD: Certificate and knife presented at MNICS Annual Meeting.

MNICS BOARD OF DIRECTORS --TASK FORCE SERVICE

Recognizes those who have served *and are leaving* the MNICS Board of Directors or the MNICS Task Force.

CRITERIA: Individual has served on the MNICS Board of Directors or MNICS Task Force for at least one year and has resigned from the Board or Task Force through retirement or job change.

RECOGNITION AWARD: Certificate and knife presented at MNICS Meeting.

TEAMWORK

TEAMWORK AWARD

Recognizes outstanding teamwork within a MNICS incident management team, working team, crew or project team.

CRITERIA: A team or group who fosters emergency management and incident command improvements; demonstrates outstanding performance on a project, incident, or event. Exhibits exceptional spirit of service and commitment to MNICS mission.

RECOGNITION AWARD: Plaque for the group, or individual framed certificates presented at the MNICS Meeting.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

SAFETY AWARD

This award recognizes outstanding safety performance of an individual or team.

CRITERIA: The individual or team exhibits exceptional safety awareness and performance during an incident or a project, that supported the safety of others.

RECOGNITION AWARD: Plaque presented to the individual or team at MNICS Annual Meeting.

PARTNER AWARD

PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Acknowledges exceptional service or assistance to the MNICS organization from a partner, vendor or support organization.

CRITERIA: Acknowledges exceptional service or assistance to the MNICS organization from a partner, vendor, or support organization.

RECOGNITION AWARD: Plaque presented at the MNICS Meeting.

