



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 or any means approved by MNICS Task Force.

NOMINATIONS

Anyone may submit a nomination through the online Forms portal. * **For 2026 consideration - [submit nominations online](#) by October 1, 2026.***

SELECTION

MNICS Task Force reviews all nominations and will make final award selections during the October 2026 Task Force meeting. 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 shared in MNICS digital and print 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, lasting contributions to the MNICS organization and is substantially divested from MNICS for three or more years. Their legacy exhibits an exceptional spirit of service and was instrumental in advancing the 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 who are not selected for 2026 remain eligible for future nominations.

RECOGNITION

Formal recognition takes place at the annual MNICS Meeting, in MNICS digital and print media.

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 exceptional spirit of service to the MNICS organization. They support and enhance the MNICS mission and goals.

RECOGNITION AWARD: Framed certificate presented at the MNICS annual meeting.

LEADERSHIP AWARD

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

CRITERIA: Individual fosters improvement and advancement in emergency management and incident command. They demonstrate outstanding leadership on a project, incident or event while supporting safety and MNICS mission and goals.

RECOGNITION AWARD: Framed certificate presented at the MNICS annual meeting.

MENTORSHIP AWARD

Recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional commitment to developing the next generation of wildland fire leaders through mentorship and support.

CRITERIA: Individual fosters the development of trainees and those interested in further advancing their technical fire and emergency management skills. They actively share their knowledge and expertise, vital to sustaining the incident command system and achieving the MNICS mission and goals.

RECOGNITION AWARD: Framed certificate presented at the MNICS annual meeting.

TEAMWORK

TEAMWORK AWARD

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

CRITERIA: A team or group that fosters emergency management and incident command improvements demonstrating outstanding performance on a project, incident, or event. The team members exhibit exceptional spirit of service and commitment to the MNICS mission.

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

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

SAFETY AWARD

Recognizes individuals and team who exemplify outstanding commitment to safety by modeling best practices, encouraging a culture of awareness, and actively reducing risk.

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 annual 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.

RECOGNITION AWARD: Certificate and knife presented at MNICS annual meeting.

SERVICE - BOARD OF DIRECTORS / TASK FORCE

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 annual meeting.

