

2019 Wildfire Mitigation Awards

Criteria and Guidelines

OVERVIEW

Established in 2014 in response to an overwhelming number of great wildfire mitigation program efforts, the Wildfire Mitigation Awards are the highest national honor one can receive for outstanding work and significant program impact in wildfire mitigation.

Supported by:

The National Association of State Foresters
The International Association of Fire Chiefs
The National Fire Protection Association
The USDA Forest Service



Guidelines and Criteria



Only applications submitted through the electronic
2019 Wildfire Mitigation Awards Nomination Form will be accepted.

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GUIDELINES

The 2019 Wildfire Mitigation Awards nomination deadline is Wednesday, October 31, 2018. Awards will be presented at the Reno, Nevada Wildland Urban-Interface Conference on March 27, 2019.

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF), the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the USDA Forest Service are pleased to invite nominations of candidates for the 2019 Wildfire Mitigation Awards. The national Wildfire Mitigation Awards recognize outstanding service in wildfire mitigation efforts to increase community wildfire risk reduction on the ground.

Selection Process

Members of the Wildfire Mitigation Awards committee determine award winners. Standing members include no more than three representatives of NASF, one each from IAFC, NFPA, and the USDA Forest Service (WUI Program Manager) and one at-large voting member appointed, by consensus, by the standing members of the committee.

Eligibility

Individuals, agencies (federal, state or local), or organizations that have made outstanding contributions with significant program impact in mitigation of wildfire risk to communities are eligible for nomination.

Posthumous awards may be given if the work nominated occurred within the last three years or still has significant influence or long-term measurable impact. Awards are intended to recognize community level or larger fire adaptation efforts; individual single-property projects are not eligible. This award is not intended as a retirement or departure recognition award. Applications will not be considered for prevention projects covered by the National Smokey Bear Awards.

Award Designations

There is one standing award with three sub-categories and two discretionary award categories. The committee is not obligated to give awards in any category if nominations are not of high enough quality to meet requirements.

National Wildfire Mitigation Award – Sustained wildfire mitigation actions that lead to community fire adaptation don't happen by accident. Community wildfire adaptation starts with empowered residents, informed and active elected officials, engaged land managers, forestry agencies, and proactive fire departments. The National Wildfire Mitigation Award recognizes the efforts of organizations and individuals who have implemented successful and sustainable wildfire mitigation projects on the ground in their community. Because of their leadership and vision their community has embraced the philosophy of community fire adaptation and are actively engaged in sustained risk reduction projects. **Please indicate if you are nominating an organization or an individual.**

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To be eligible a nominee must meet the following qualifications:

- Plays an active role in community wildfire risk reduction/fire adaptation projects on the ground.
- Is dedicated to and can show examples of leading and implementing **at least two sustained mitigation/fire adaptation actions** in their community with a **minimum duration of 24 months**; Examples include but are not limited to: community level defensible space and home hardening, hazardous fuel reduction projects, local coalition building, development and implementation of community wildfire protection plans or equivalent such as the Fire Adapted Communities Self-Assessment Tool, use of codes and ordinances, use of home assessments and subsequent mitigation, and fire department engagement in mitigation messaging and implementation. **Priority will be given to candidates doing active mitigation work on the ground over those doing messaging only.**
 - Category 1: For communities, career or volunteer fire departments, government agencies, or non-profits in communities larger than 30,000 population.
 - Category 2: For communities, career or volunteer fire departments, government agencies, non-profits, or individuals in communities less than 30,000 population.
 - Category 3: For individuals who lead or enable mitigation actions on the ground.

National Mitigation Hero Award (one award per year at the discretion of the committee):

Individuals and organizations involved in mitigation are seldom, if ever, singled out as heroes, but the work they do often saves communities, homes, and lives. The effectiveness or value of a community fire risk reduction project is not fully appreciated until the community and the mitigation work is tested by wildfire. This award recognizes an individual or organization whose community-wide mitigation project reduced damage and risk to a community when a wildfire impacted the community.

To be eligible a nominee must meet the following qualifications (please indicate if you are nominating an organization or an individual):

- The individual or organization was responsible for the community level mitigation project that protected or reduced damage from a wildfire.
- There is clear documentation regarding
 - where and how the mitigation was done,
 - when and how the incident (name incident) impacted the community, and
 - how the mitigation project reduced the damaging impact of the wildfire (testimonials, eye witnesses, before and after photos, maps, documentation of the mitigation work).

Wildfire Mitigation Legacy Award (no more than one award given annually at the discretion of the committee): This award is designed to recognize an individual's or organization's outstanding contribution to the larger world of mitigation. It is meant to acknowledge those who have flown the mitigation banner over a long period of time, persisted in vocalizing the mitigation message, spoken truth to power, and helped create the tools and best practices that make up fire adaptation today. **This is not a retirement award but recognition of a major investment and impact on mitigation through long-term achievement.**

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The Wildfire Mitigation Legacy Award nominee is generated by the WUI Mitigation Awards Committee, no nominations will be accepted. Criteria include:

- Must be a wildfire mitigation professional
- Must have a career history of dedication to the importance of community wildfire risk reduction through fire adaptation.
- Must have made a major contribution to the development of mitigation messaging, tools, and implementation at the regional or national level in a sustained and successful way.
- **Must be able to demonstrate the level of contribution to the field with examples, testimonials, and documentation.**
- Nominations will be due from the WMA Committee by October 31, 2018 for consideration.

Required Elements of the Nomination Package

Nomination packages will stand on their own merit. Please make sure they are complete to give the best opportunity to the nominee. Nomination packages must include:

- A complete nomination form.
- A narrative description, including impact, of the outstanding mitigation effort(s) or project(s) being nominated that answers each element of the award criteria (see below).
- Supporting documentation (e.g., photos, news articles, project materials, and letters of support).
- Nominations of state forestry agency employees must show endorsement of the State Forester, either by signature or letter of support (an e-mail message is sufficient).

Award Criteria

The following award criteria are used to evaluate each nomination. The nominator must submit the nomination through the 2019 Wildfire Mitigation Awards online form found at www.stateforesters.org/mitigation. Submissions will be judged on merit with no further request for documentation, and incomplete submissions are not eligible for consideration.

Within each criterion, address only those points that most appropriately apply to your nomination; not all points are appropriate for every nomination.

1. Basic Requirements: Scope and Impact

- Easily recognized as a wildfire mitigation effort: Describe tools or methods used, long-term outcomes of the service or project, what objectives were met or exceeded, and, in general terms, how many people or communities it impacted. There must be at least two sustained mitigation/fire adapted actions.
- Effort covers at least a 24-month period.
- Nomination includes appropriate supporting documentation.
- Mitigation activity is replicable and could be applied beyond its geographic area or audience.

2. Qualities

- If wildfire mitigation is a part of the nominee's job description, explain how the nominee distinguished themselves above and beyond normal job responsibilities or expected mitigation activities.
- Describe leadership, creativity, or innovation that was exhibited.
- Describe how the project/service targets or complements national audiences, themes, messages, and goals.

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3. Partnerships

- Describe how the project or activity engaged groups, organizations, or agencies, and whether these participants were new to this activity.

4. Other Factors

- Include any documentation that mitigation efforts reduced damage caused by wildfires.
- Describe any local, regional, or national recognition that was received for the project or activity.
- Explain how the project was funded and whether any external funding support was garnered.
- If selected, describe what mediums would be pursued to promote the project/recipient to local media or through social media channels.