

FIRE CHIEF OF THE YEAR POLICY

Introduction

These awards acknowledge the importance of recognizing chiefs and officers of the fire service in Mississippi. This program was conceived to recognize truly outstanding fire chiefs whose actions and leadership in their profession, home, community, and country serve as an example and challenge for all other chiefs, fire executives, and officers throughout Mississippi.

The Mississippi Fire Chief of the Year awards will be presented during the Mid-Winter Chief Conference. Each district of the Mississippi Fire Chief's Association will nominate a career and volunteer Fire Chief of the Year, based on the award criteria below. The District award recipients will be forwarded to the Fire Chief's Executive Board, who will select the Mississippi Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year and the Mississippi Career Fire Chief of the Year. The District award winners and the overall award winners will be recognized at the Fire Chief's Mid-Winter Conference.

Award Criteria

Volunteer Fire Chief – A volunteer fire chief/officer is defined as one who earns his or her livelihood by some means other than serving as a fire chief/officer, even if the position carries some compensation.

Career Fire Chief – A career fire chief/officer is defined as one who earns his or her principal livelihood as a Fire Chief.

In each category, the status of the fire department, career, volunteer, or combination, is not considered.

Individuals who are eligible for nomination and selected as Fire Chief of the Year are limited to active fire chiefs of fire service agencies. Previous Fire Chief of the Year winners are not eligible for additional nominations.

Selection criteria will emphasize leadership, innovation, professional development, integrity, service to the public, and contributions to the fire service as a whole.

All of a nominee's fire service activities and accomplishments will be considered. A nominee's command role at a major incident alone, while relevant, will not be enough to place that individual into contention for the award.

Nominees need not be members of the Mississippi Fire Chief's Association. However, membership to the MFCA will be paid for one year for each of the District Award winners.

Nominating Organization

Nominations for career and volunteer chiefs may come from any fire organization in the Mississippi Region. All nominations must comply with the Award Criteria.

Nomination Process

The nomination period shall open on August 1st for District nominations and close on November 15th annually. Nominations shall be accepted for the current calendar year only.

To submit a nomination, complete the nomination form and obtain a cover letter on the organization's letterhead, signed by the organization's chairperson, president or executive director, county or city manager, describing in less than 1200 words the nominee's major accomplishment and why the candidate is being nominated.

The nomination form and supporting documents comprise the entire documentation for a candidate's nomination. Neither the nominee nor anyone representing him or her is to contact any members of the Executive Board or committee once the nomination has been made or before the final selection. Any violations of this will subject the nominee to disqualification.

The completed nomination packet should be submitted by November 15th of each year to:

Mississippi Fire Chief's Association
6455 Wirtz Rd
Flowood, MS 39232

Or emailed to: info@msfirechiefs.org

After nominations have been received, the nominations will be distributed to the Executive Board for selection of the District Nominees. After the District Nominees have been selected, those nominations will be sent to the Credential Committee for selection of the Career Fire Chief of the Year and Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year. District winners will be notified prior to the Mid-Winter Conference of their nomination for the Fire Chief of the Year award with an invitation to attend the Mid-Winter Conference. The final Fire Chief of the Year Awards will not be revealed until Mid-Winter Conference.

Fire Officer of the Year Award

Nomination Cover Page

(Please submit with nomination material)

Date: _____

Nomination Category

Career: _____ (includes full-time employment in a combination department)

Volunteer: _____

Nominee: _____

Fire Department: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Person submitting the nomination:

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Please use the outline below to categorize the nominees experience and accomplishments when submitting nomination information:

- I. Fire Service Experience** – List the nominee’s Fire Service experience including length of service, departments in which he/she has served, and positions held. Emphasis should be given on the time the individual has served as chief.
- II. Education** – Provide a summary of the nominee’s formal education and Fire Service training/education achievements.
- III. Professional Development** – Provide a narrative describing examples of the individual’s professional development, professional contributions, and association memberships.
- IV. Community Involvement** – Describe the individual’s contributions to his/her local community.
- V. Fire Service Involvement/Contributions** – Describe the individual’s contributions to the fire service community.
- VI. Character** – Confirm that the individual is free of characteristics that would discredit the MFCA and the fire service such as having a criminal history. If there is a criminal history, please explain.

The Fire Chief of the Year Award will be presented at the Mis-Winter Chief Conference. The MFCA will coordinate with the host department for the award presentation.

All nominations must be typed or legibly had written and postmarked by November 15th to:

**Mississippi Fire Chiefs Association
6455 Wirtz Rd.
Flowood, MS 39232**

Or emailed to: info@msfirechiefs.org

Questions can be directed to Stephen Applewhite 601-981-2929.