

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDAL

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Exemplary Service Medal is part of the Canadian Honours System, created by the Governor General of Canada on July 7, 1994. This medal honours and recognizes professionals in the provision of emergency medical services who have performed their duties in an exemplary manner, which is characterized by good conduct, industry and efficiency.

The EMS Exemplary Service Medal symbolizes outstanding performance as an emergency medical service professional.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Each province and territory has an Awards Committee whose members are appointed by the National Advisory Committee. The Alberta Awards Committee is comprised of representatives from the Alberta College of Paramedics, Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services Emergency Medical Services, Alberta Paramedic Association, Alberta Paramedic Guard of Honour Society and four (4) member-at-large positions.

There are three levels to the approval process. First, the nomination packages are submitted to and reviewed by the Alberta Awards Committee. Second, the approved nomination packages are forwarded to the National Advisory Committee to be reviewed: approved packages are forwarded to the Chancellery in Ottawa. Finally, the Chancellery submits the approved nominations to the Governor General. The Alberta Awards Committee will inform the nominators and nominees of the decision.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BE NOMINATED?

The *Regulations Governing the Award of the Emergency Medical Service Exemplary Service Medal (Regulations)* states that “the Medal may be awarded to any person who:

- (a) was an emergency medical services employee, employed specifically and exclusively as a professional in that capacity on or after October 31, 1991;
- (b) has completed at least twenty years of service with EMS, at least ten years of which have been served in the performance of duties involving potential risk, as determined by the Advisory Committee; and
- (c) has a record of exemplary service of such a high standard as to merit award of the Medal.”

AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IS DEFINED AS:

“those divisions of Canadian ambulance services engaged in the provision of prehospital emergency medical services to the general public.”

The Alberta Awards Committee recognizes that being employed ‘specifically and exclusively’ may look different from an EMR, PCP or ACP who works full-time in that capacity. When reviewing nominations that are atypical the Committee requests additional information to be submitted that supports rationale for the nomination. Each nomination will be reviewed on its own merit. The following examples are for illustration and may be considered in light of the regulations. Other exceptions may exist and may receive a recommendation(s) from the Committee. Once the threshold of ‘exemplary’ has been established:

- The most straightforward nominee has been a full-time EMS paramedic (EMR, PCP and ACP) for twenty (20) years with ten (10) years in a position of potential risk.
 - This is interpreted to mean a ‘road’ paramedic (or supervisor) working on a full-time basis for a ‘licensed’ public service where regular duties involve providing emergency medical services to the public.
- The variation of this is a paramedic who, because of employment, works exclusively for two (or more) qualifying employers (part-time positions) and is specifically and exclusively a paramedic.
- Another variation is where a paramedic, because of employment, works less than full-time hours due to available work hours (this is their only job) and is specifically and exclusively a paramedic.

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WHAT DOES POTENTIAL RISK MEAN?

Potential Risk is defined by the National Advisory Committee as time spent in duties in which the individual is personally required to provide emergency medical treatment to patients and is, therefore, personally subject to the potential dangers at the scene and resulting from direct contact with the patient.

This means the nominee must have a minimum of 10-years' experience with regular, direct patient contact.

NOTE: Time spent in positions where the job description does not require the nominee to come into regular, direct contact, in an emergency scenario, with patients will not count towards the 10-years of potential risk.

WHAT DOES EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEAN?

Section 2 of the Regulations governing the award states "exemplary service means service, characterized by good conduct, industry, efficiency that serves as a model for others."

Exemplary service is not defined by years of service but rather the standard of individual EMS performance, dedication, community service, professionalism and the individual is a model to all EMS personnel.

An act of heroism is cause to nominate an individual for the Bravery Award within the Canadian Honours System. It would not be appropriate for the act itself to be the basis for recommending an EMS Exemplary Service Medal. However, it may be used as an example to illustrate an individual's extraordinary contribution to EMS.

The Alberta Awards Committee, in reviewing Section 2 of the Regulation, extracted the following definitions from www.dictionary.com to further explain exemplary service.

Exemplary | worthy of imitation, serving as a model and serving as an illustration.

Synonyms | admirable, virtuous, representative, sterling, praiseworthy, commendable, meritable, honourable and worthy.

Industry | energetic devotion to a task or an endeavor, diligent activity directed to some purpose; ongoing work or study associated with a specified subject or figure.

Synonyms | diligence, skill and ability.

Efficiency | the production of the desired effects or results with a minimum waste of time, effort or skill.

Synonyms | ability, adaptability; adeptness, capability, competency, efficacy, expertise, performance, proficiency, readiness, resourcefulness, response, skill, talent and thoroughness.

Conduct | the way a person acts, especially from the standpoint of morality and ethics and to lead.

Synonyms | behaviour, doings, behavioral attributes, demeanour, deportment, carry on, deal, behave and comport.

Defining attributes of an Exemplary Service Medal nominee may include:

- Admired
- Advocate
- Altruistic
- Champion for change
- Commitment
- Devoted
- Humble
- Influential
- Leader/Definer
- Selfless
- Visionary

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COMMITTEE DECISION

The decision of the Alberta Awards Committee is final and binding. The Committee will advise in writing the status of the nomination to both the nominator and nominating authority.

PRESENTATIONS

The prestige and merit of the medal will be greatly enhanced through presentation at special events and potential media coverage. Whenever possible, the Lieutenant Governor or designate will make the presentations. The EMS Exemplary Service Medal may be presented in conjunction with the Alberta College of Paramedics' Annual Members' Meeting.

NOMINATIONS

The official Alberta Awards Committee Nomination Form is available on the Alberta Awards Committee's website.

Website: www.abparamedicawards.ca

Email: info@abparamedicawards.ca

NOMINATION – EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDAL

1. The nomination form may be initiated by any person **BUT** must be completed and signed by the nominator who affirms that to the best of their knowledge the nominee is deserving of the Medal and that no serious disciplinary action has been taken in respect of the nominee. Serious disciplinary action may include termination/suspension of employment, unethical conduct, existence of a disciplinary record with a regulator (Alberta College of Paramedics) and criminal conviction.

NOTE: Self-submissions will not be accepted.

2. The Certification Form must be signed by the Nominating Authority and is the recipient's employer, senior supervisor or other appropriate authority. The Nominating Authority also affirms that, to the best of their knowledge, the nominee is deserving of the Medal and that no serious disciplinary action has been taken in respect of the nominee. Serious disciplinary action may include termination/suspension of employment, unethical conduct, existence of a disciplinary record with a regulator (Alberta College of Paramedics) and criminal conviction.
3. Confirmation of employment history is mandatory and must identify:
 - a. Years of Service in the following format [month/year to month/year]. Nominations made prior to full completion of the required years of service cannot be accepted.
 - b. Ten (10) years of potential risk service. *See definition of potential risk on page 2.*
4. The nomination must be accompanied by documentation that provides sufficient evidence of the exemplary nature of the nominee's EMS history. Documentation must adequately illustrate where the performance of the nominee exceeds that expected of an EMS practitioner with a similar employment history. A cover letter must be included summarizing the exemplary service of the nominee and supporting documentation.

NOMINATION – FIRST, SECOND OR THIRD BAR

A person who has been awarded the Medal is eligible to receive a Bar for each additional 10-year period of service provided that service is of such a high standard to merit official recognition.

1. Items 1, 2 and 4 as outlined above apply

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2. Confirmation of continued employment history is mandatory and must identify:
 - a. Employment History following the 20-year period in respect of which the person was awarded the Medal. There is no need to provide the entire employment history as this information was previously verified and on file with the Alberta Awards Committee and the Chancellery.

NOMINATION SUBMISSION

Nominations for EMS Exemplary Service Medals must be received by the Alberta Award Committee no later than **November 30th**, annually. Nominations received after the deadline will be kept on file and reviewed the following year. Incomplete nominations will be returned. The Alberta Awards Committee will accept re-submissions as long as the re-submission is received by **November 30th**.

All nominations must be submitted in hard copy, the Alberta Award Committee encourages the nominator to make two copies, one for submission and one for their files.

NOTE: Nominations submitted by email will no longer be accepted, hard copy submission only.

Mail or deliver nominations to:

Alberta Awards Committee
C/o Alberta College of Paramedics
Ellwood Office Park South
201-1003 Ellwood Road SW
Edmonton, AB T6X 0B3

OR

Nominations can be submitted to an Alberta Award Committee member in hard copy.

Alberta Award Committee members are:

- Mike Cochrane, Chair
- Blaine Barody, Co-chair
- Dave Treppel
- Ron Ree
- Linda Coghil
- Jeremy MacKinnon
- Ilona Cardinal
- John Ferris