



EMPA Awards for Excellence in Emergency Communication

PURPOSE

The Annual EMPA Awards for Excellence in Emergency Communication have been established to recognise those who have made a significant contribution to emergency communications in Australia and New Zealand.

CATEGORIES

1. **Emergency Communication - READINESS AND RESILIENCE:**
 - a. A project or activity that contributes to improved community preparedness and / or resilience.
2. **Emergency Communication - RESPONSE:**
 - a. Communicating effectively during an emergency response.
3. **Emergency Communication - RECOVERY:**
 - a. Supporting the recovery of a community impacted by an emergency.
4. **RESEARCH - that advances emergency communication by:**
 - a. Improving community preparedness and / or resilience; or
 - b. Increasing the effectiveness of communication during an emergency response; or
 - c. Enabling agencies to better support communities recovering from an adverse event.
5. **MEDIA – reporting emergencies and/or emergency management:**
 - a. In-depth and balanced coverage of a topic that increases public understanding of a hazard or an emergency response.
 - b. Comprehensive and accurate reporting before or during an emergency response, contributing to public safety.
6. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – community-focused communications and engagement:**
 - a. Collaborating effectively with diverse and varied communities.
 - b. Promoting collaborative communication methods and engagement with the aim that communities will eventually drive their own programs.



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JUDGING

- A panel including EMPA Fellows will judge each category.
- The judges may, at their sole discretion, make inquiries or request additional information to verify or confirm any aspect of any entry. Notwithstanding, it is the responsibility of each nominee to ensure that their entry provides sufficient information and supporting evidence to enable a complete assessment to be made.
- Where there are enough entries in a category, the judges may at their sole discretion choose a runner-up and / or highly commend one or more nominees.
- If in the opinion of the judges there is no nomination of a sufficient standard to warrant an award in a category, the judges may decline to make an award in that category, or may commend an entry without announcing it as the winner.
- The decision of the judges is final.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Each entry must:

1. Be made on the official online entry form (*refer to online link*)
2. Provide sufficient information and additional supporting evidence (*up to 5 file attachments*) to clearly explain the intention and scope of the activity or project, and what it achieved.

ELIGIBILITY

The EMPA Awards are open to:

- All who make an active contribution to emergency management in Australia or New Zealand in any capacity, provided that their activity is directly associated with communication / public information.
- Students, tutors or teaching staff in any accredited tertiary institution, whose research is directly related to emergency management in Australia or New Zealand.
- Journalists, including freelancers, who report on hazards and / or emergency responses in Australia or New Zealand.



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- Individuals, teams and organisations are all eligible for nomination.
- The project, activity, research or coverage which is the subject of the nomination must be contemporary in nature, e.g. carried out or substantially completed within the previous 12 months, ending:
 - 31 March 2023 (Australia)
 - 30 June 2023 (New Zealand)
- For media, the material must have been published / broadcast within the 12 months ending:
 - 31 March 2023 (Australia)
 - 30 June 2023 (New Zealand)

NB: Fellows of EMPA are ineligible to be nominated as individuals. Teams which include Fellows, or organisations which employ them, are eligible for nomination.

PRESENTATIONS

The Australian EMPA Awards will be presented during the conference dinner, at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, Brisbane, on Wednesday 7 June 2023.

The New Zealand EMPA Awards will be presented during the conference dinner, at Te Papa Wellington, on Thursday 19 October 2023.

- Finalists will be notified two weeks before the event.
- It is a condition of entry that finalists must attend the conference dinner [where a team has been shortlisted, at least one member of the team must attend].
- If a finalist is not also attending the conference, a ticket to the conference dinner must be purchased separately.
- Category winners will be invited to give a short, 5-minute, presentation as part of the Awards Showcase on the final day of conference sessions.
- Travel and accommodation – if required – is at the nominee's own cost.