



GUIDE TO PREPARING A NOMINATION FOR THE AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL (AFSM)

THE AWARD

The Australian Fire Service Medal recognises distinguished service by members of Australian fire services. It is awarded to paid and volunteer members. The AFSM is awarded by the Governor General on the recommendation of the responsible minister. For CFS and the other South Australia fire services, the responsible minister is the Minister for Emergency Services.

The quota each year for the nomination by the SA Country Fire Service is one award for each 1,000 (or part of 1,000) full time permanent staff, and one award for each 5,000 volunteer or auxiliary members.

The awards are announced on Australia Day (26 January) and the Queens Birthday (June) of each year.

Recipients of the Australian Fire Service Medal are entitled to use the letters "AFSM" after their names to show that their outstanding service has been formally recognised.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

All volunteers, operational support members and staff of CFS are eligible for the medal. Nominees must be current serving members of CFS when nominated.

The AFSM may be awarded only once to each recipient. A person who has received an AFSM and gives further distinguished service may be nominated subsequently for an award in the Order of Australia. Similarly, a person who has received an award in the Order of Australia is not excluded from receiving an Australian Fire Service Medal although, in accordance with established honours convention, at least five years should elapse between the announcements of awards.

POSTHUMOUS AWARDS

The Australian Fire Service Medal is not awarded posthumously.

ARE NOMINATIONS CONFIDENTIAL?

All nominations are strictly confidential and the information provided will be used only to assist in considering the merits of the nomination.

The person being nominated should not be approached for information or advised of his or her nomination at any stage.

WHAT IS THE MEDAL AWARDED FOR?

The sole criterion for the award of the Australian Fire Service Medal is distinguished service. “Distinguished service” includes service that is above and beyond the normal zealous and faithful discharge of normal or ordinary service, whether short term or prolonged. It could be a special achievement or success in the performance of duty in difficult or unusual circumstances, or sustained high level performance with outcomes and recognisable benefits to CFS, the fire service in general or the community.

The service must be exceptional. Long service alone should not be used as a basis for making nominations.

CRITERION – “DISTINGUISHED SERVICE”

To be considered for this award it would be expected that the nominee has given service beyond the norm exemplified by two (2) or more of the following:

- Prolonged service distinguished by exceptional performance in a particular area that has proved of significant benefit to the fire service, for example;
 - development of successful fire control techniques;
 - exceptional service through training and/or community education;
 - outstanding service in fire prevention/protection,
- Responsibility for and management of an outstanding/exceptional event that has proven to be of significant benefit to the fire service, a community or community safety generally,
- Development of a new system, or procedure, or technique that is unique and has made a significant contribution to the fire service a community or community safety generally,
- Outstanding leadership in the encouragement and development of others, particularly youth, within the fire service and the fostering and furthering the aims of the fire service to the long term benefit of the fire service and the community,
- Demonstrated creativity in the development and implementation of innovative changes that have made a significant contribution to the fire service, fire/emergency operations, or the interests of community safety,
- Other (provide details of distinguished service, explain significance and give examples)

HOW SHOULD THE NOMINATION BE PREPARED?

When completing the nomination form, it is important to:

- provide specific examples of how the nominee’s contribution(s) has been outstanding
- clearly explain the significance of the nominee’s achievements
- include examples that best show how the nominee has gone above and beyond what could be reasonably expected of someone in a similar position.
- focus on why the nominee’s service and achievements are outstanding and worthy of recognition through the Australian Fire Service Medal.

Details of positions held over a number of years are not sufficient on their own.

THE NOMINATION FORM

The nomination form is a pro-forma comprising the following parts:

Details of Person Submitting Nomination
Details of Person Being Nominated for the AFSM
Referees (Nominator plus two referees)
Nomination Statement

DETAILS OF PERSON SUBMITTING NOMINATION

The nomination form must include details of the person making the nomination and be signed and dated. No member of the Service can self nominate. All details required of the nominator are listed on the form, each section of which must be fully completed. All information will be treated as confidential.

DETAILS OF PERSON BEING NOMINATED

As the Australian Fire Service Medal is part of the official national honours system, it is important to provide full personal details of the nominee. All details required of the nominee are listed on the form and will be treated as confidential.

Category should be; volunteer (firefighter or operational support) or staff member

For *Previous Awards Received, Qualifications and Service History*; a date order list for each will suffice.

REFEREES

The names and contact details of two (2) individuals who are in a position to comment on the nominee's service and eligibility should be provided.

Referees must provide a short statement of why they are supporting the nomination.

NOMINATION STATEMENT

(Approximately one to two pages detailing achievements to demonstrate distinguished service will suffice)

The statement should be structured around fulfilment of two or more of the Criterion for Distinguished Service dot points listed on page 2 of this document.

The nomination will be considered by CFS Awards Committee with recommendation/s made to the CFS Chief Officer for forwarding to the Minister for Emergency Services and the Honours Secretariat in Canberra.

Specific examples of how the nominee's contribution has been outstanding should be included in this part. Focus on why the nominee's service and achievements are outstanding and worthy of recognition through the AFSM. This is important as it enables the selection panel to assess the nomination relative to the duties which would normally be expected of a person at a particular level.

As a guide, you might consider some of the following questions:

- In what role(s) has the nominee excelled?
- How has the nominee demonstrated service worthy of recognition?
- How has the nominee's contribution impacted on a particular field, locality, brigade, group or community at large?
- Over what period has the nominee made a major commitment?
- Has the nominee's contribution been recognised elsewhere e.g. in the media, by other awards, professional interest groups, volunteer associations or through local government?

- What makes this person stand out from others?

SUGGESTED CITATION FOR NOMINEE

Include here a brief summary of 100 -200 words of the key reasons the award has been made. Three short paragraphs capturing the following information is recommended:

- an acknowledgement of the years of service and role or roles with CFS
- details of significant achievements that are above and beyond his or her roles giving one or two examples
- a general statement to capture other contributions

This Citation will be used by the Governor-General as background information and cited in the booklet used at the investiture ceremony.

It is important that the Citation reflects the substantial achievements of the nominee as this information will be made available to the public.

MORE INFORMATION OR HELP:

If you have any questions, or require guidance in the preparation of the nomination, please call the CFS Deputy Chief Officer on (08) 8463 4200

WHERE TO SEND NOMINATION:

By email (preferred method) to: cfsawards@cfs.sa.gov.au

or, in an envelope marked "**Strictly Confidential**" to:

CFS Deputy Chief Officer
SA Country Fire Service
GPO Box 2468
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Telephone enquiries: (08) 8463 4200