



2026 SERMA Awards Overview

The SERMA Awards Program recognizes individuals, teams, and facilities within Maryland state agencies that create solutions to safety and risk management challenges. These efforts help prevent injuries and illnesses, reduce missed work time, and protect livelihoods. Accidents are preventable through safe practices, and this awards program celebrates those at every level of employment who actively promote and maintain safety for their colleagues.

Important Dates

- **Nomination Deadline:** April 16, 2026
- **Award Ceremony:** May 21, 2026 at Boumi Shriners, Baltimore
- **Eligibility Period for Work:** All eligible work completed must have been **initiated and completed from January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025**. *Any work completed in 2026 will not be eligible, but should be considered for a nomination in 2027*

Submission of materials

Email this submission form and summary to:
SERMA2@ceiwc.com

Who's Eligible

- All full-time and part-time state employees of State of Maryland Agencies
 - Individuals at any level, including staff, supervisors, managers, and agency heads
 - Teams or cross-functional groups with a safety focus
 - Entire facilities

Judging & Recognition

- Nominations are reviewed by SERMA peer risk management professionals throughout multiple Maryland state agencies.
- Winners and their supervisors will be notified before the conference (*it can also be arranged as a surprise for winners*).
- Awards are presented at the 2026 SERMA Conference on May 21st at Boumi Shriners in Baltimore.

Contact: If you have any questions before submitting your nomination, please feel free to contact a program coordinator at SERMA2@ceiwc.com.



Individual Award Category Descriptions:

Linda Brooks Memorial Award: This is an honorable lifetime achievement award recognizing an entire career of outstanding leadership in risk management and occupational safety within Maryland state government. This award celebrates individuals who have:

- Advocated for environmental health, safety, and/or emergency management initiatives
- Embedded safety practices throughout their agency or facility
- Launched innovative efforts to enhance health and safety culture
- Shown exemplary leadership in safety and risk management

SERMA Award for Individual Achievement: Awarded for exceptional acts or ideas that enhance workplace health and safety—whether through heroism, volunteerism (above and beyond the requirements of the job function), or outstanding innovation for health and safety improvements. Recipients are recognized for:

- Driving significant safety improvements
- Making focused efforts on specific safety challenges
- Elevating staff awareness of health and safety
- Having a direct influence on the safe completion of a job or project
- Advancing agency or facility safety goals
- Contributing to the safety and well-being of others
- Preventing incidents or injuries
- Taking initiative to identify, improve, and resolve safety issues

Unsung Hero Award: Honors those whose contributions to safety have gone largely unrecognized but are deeply impactful. This award spotlights individuals who quietly deliver meaningful and dependable service that supports and strengthens health and safety to their organization, and have gone above and beyond their job duties to safeguard their workplace.



Group Award Category Descriptions:

Health & Safety Award of Excellence: Recognizes teams or facilities whose ongoing efforts have transformed safety behaviors and strengthened safety culture at their organization. Nominees demonstrate:

- Improved safety awareness and knowledge among staff
- Directly influencing the safe completion of a job or project
- Contributions that protect and uplift others
- Prevention of accidents or workplace injuries
- Providing a solution for a workplace hazard
- Long-term improvements to agency-wide health and safety

Best Practice Award: Celebrates teams or facilities for the development and successful rollout of a new procedure or policy that significantly improves employee safety, health, or costs. Nominees may be recognized for:

- Creating new Standard Operating Procedure or policy with proof it has been implemented
- Improving workplace safety and/or employee wellness
- Delivering measurable cost savings (e.g., workers' comp, health insurance)
- Documenting the implementation and potential impact of new protocols
- Quantifiable results are strongly recommended if available



Submission Form

Nominations cannot be accepted after the deadline of April 16, 2026.

Nominee(s):

Individual or Group Name: _____
Title: _____ Award Category: _____
Agency/Facility Name: _____ Nominee(s) Supervisor: _____
Work Phone: _____ Email: _____

Nominator:

Name: _____ Title: _____
Agency/Facility Name: _____
Work Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please attach a separate document (1-3 pages) providing a typed summary explaining your nomination. Include all of the following information that applies to the award category:

- Description of the safety or risk management issue
- The solution implemented and how it was developed
 - Who led or participated in the effort including collaborators and consultants
- Research conducted that helped to understand the problem
 - Primary Research: Surveys, interviews, site inspections, etc.
 - Secondary Research: Reports, studies, articles, benchmarking, etc.
- High-level strategies, tactics, or tools used to achieve the goal
- Effectiveness of the solution and the impact it made
 - Measure results are strongly recommended - survey data, incident rates, participation stats, online engagement, testimonials, appreciation letter, etc.
- Timeline of the implementation (most/all of the work needs to be in CY 2025)
- Why the individual or group deserves recognition

It is optional to attach separate supporting evidence (i.e. chart, graph, photo, email, letter, etc.). Please keep supporting materials concise and directly tied to the safety initiative. The most effective submissions feature a small number of clear, relevant documents that quickly showcase impact. Aim to help the award review committee understand your achievement within just a few minutes of review. When in doubt, less is more—every attachment should strengthen your case.

Reminder: Nominations cannot be accepted after the deadline of April 16, 2026.