2027 GBRIA Safety Excellence Awards

Program Guide

Program Overview

Since 1996, the GBRIA Safety Excellence Awards have recognized outstanding safety performance by industrial contractors and member facilities. The program reflects a shared commitment to safe worksites, with contractors and plant owners working in close partnership to ensure safe work practices. By highlighting organizations that set the standard for safety excellence and collaboration, the awards strengthen GBRIA's focus on advancing safety across the region.

Participation Requirements

- A completed nomination form submitted by a GBRIA member plant.
- Contractors that experienced a fatality in 2026 are not eligible for consideration.
- Contractors that received a repeat or willful violation from OSHA or any other regulatory agency in 2026 are not eligible for consideration.

Program Timeline and Deadlines

Date	Milestone
November 10, 2026	Nominations Open
January 5, 2027	Nominations Close
February 3, 2027	Applications Due
February 8 to 19, 2027	Independent Judging
February 25, 2027	First Round Award Selection Meeting
March 4, 2027	Second Round Award Selection Meeting
March 18, 2027	Awards Banquet

Review and Selection

All submitted applications are first reviewed by GBRIA staff to confirm completeness and compliance with the entry requirements. Each qualifying application is then evaluated and scored by a panel of GBRIA member representatives using the scoring guidance provided below. The average of the individual judges' scores determines the applicant's award placement.

Instructions

A video submission is required for each section of the application. Any style of video is acceptable, from a simple voice-over PowerPoint to a full production. No points are awarded or deducted for production quality, because the quality of the content is what matters. Each video must clearly address all elements of the questions being asked and should present the information in a fresh and engaging way.

- A separate video is required for each section.
- Each video must be under 5 minutes.

Application Sections and Questions

Section 1: Commitment

1. Describe how management demonstrates its commitment to safety, including leadership involvement, visible initiatives, and the ways management sets expectations and reinforces safety culture.
2. Explain how front-line leaders show their commitment to safety, such as through daily practices, engagement with crews, coaching, and accountability.
3. Describe how front-line workers demonstrate their commitment to safety, including participation in safety activities, adherence to procedures, peer-to-peer support, and hazard identification.
4. Explain how your company recognizes safety accomplishments, behaviors, and performance. Include examples and submit supporting documentation.
5. Outline the methods used to gather input from front-line leaders and workers regarding safety programs, improvements, and emerging issues.

Section 2: Training and Development

1. Describe how your company develops and sustains leaders at all levels. Include processes such as leadership training, mentoring, performance evaluation, and opportunities for advancement.

2. Explain how employees' key safety skills are developed to identify hazards, assess risk, and implement effective controls. Address both initial and ongoing safety leadership development.
3. Describe how you ensure training is relevant and effective, including methods for validating competency, updating content, and measuring training outcomes.
4. Identify the programs your company uses to encourage the reporting of incidents and near misses. Provide examples and submit supporting documentation.

Section 3: Learning Organization

1. Describe your organization's incident investigation process, including how incidents are reported, reviewed, analyzed, and documented.
2. Explain how lessons learned from incidents and near misses are captured and implemented, and how this information is communicated throughout the organization.
3. Describe the internal and external auditing processes your company uses to proactively identify risks and drive improvement. Include examples and submit supporting documentation.
4. Explain how your company uses leading and lagging indicators to improve and sustain performance, and how these metrics influence decision-making, risk management, and continuous improvement efforts.

Section 4: Innovation

1. Provide an example of a unique safety solution your company has implemented or is currently developing. Describe the challenge, the approach taken, and the impact or expected outcome.
2. Explain how your company adopts or shares industry safety best practices learned from regional networks, peers, or other industries, and how these practices are integrated into your operations.
3. Describe any unique or innovative training programs your company uses to meet the needs of today's workforce, including new approaches to engagement, communication, or skill development.
4. Explain how your company continuously improves successful work processes, including how improvements are identified, tested, and integrated into standard practice. Include examples and submit supporting documentation.

Optional Award Submittals

Innovation in Safety

Submit up to three programs your company has implemented within the past three years that you consider Industry Best Practices. For each program, identify the year it was implemented and provide a brief explanation of the problem it addressed, the solution or practice introduced, and the results achieved. Supporting documentation is required and may include procedures, training materials, photos, metrics, or other evidence demonstrating the effectiveness and adoption of the practice.

Community Service

Provide a brief summary of any community service projects your company led or participated in within the Greater Baton Rouge or New Orleans regions in 2026. Include the project(s) name, your company's role, and the impact or outcome of the effort.

Partnership in Safety Award

Submit a jointly completed project that addresses a unique, non-routine safety challenge. Your submittal must show how both the contractor and owner contributed to identifying the issue, developing the solution, and delivering the results. Clearly explain the partnership, the novelty of the solution, and the measurable safety improvement achieved. Include any supporting details or evidence needed to demonstrate the project's impact.

Scoring

Application Section Scoring

Each section of the application should be evaluated based on the strength, clarity, and maturity of the program or practice described.

Score	Rating	Description
0	**Does Not Meet Requirements**	The program or practice does not meet minimum expectations, or no response is provided.
1	**Meets Minimum Requirements**	Basic elements are present, but the description lacks detail or does not demonstrate meaningful implementation.
2	**Standard for Industry**	The program or practice reflects common or widely adopted practices within the industrial sector.

Score	Rating	Description
3	**Above Industry Standard**	The program or practice is well-developed, consistently applied, and shows performance above typical industry practice.
4	**Exemplary / Far Exceeds Industry Standard**	The program or practice is exceptional, innovative, mature, and clearly surpasses industry expectations.

Note: Judges may award half points.

Overall Application Scoring

This score reflects the overall strength, maturity, and completeness of the contractor's safety program as presented in the application. Judges should evaluate whether the company demonstrates clear processes, consistent execution, meaningful results, and evidence of continuous improvement. The score should represent the judge's holistic assessment of the application, not just a sum of individual sections.

Score	Rating	Description
0	**Insufficient Information**	The application is missing major sections or required attachments and does not provide enough information to evaluate the contractor's safety performance.
1	**Emerging Processes**	The application shows early or developing safety processes but falls below standard expectations for industrial contractors. Information may be incomplete or inconsistent.
2	**Meets Baseline Expectations**	The application demonstrates sound, systemic safety processes that align with baseline industry expectations. Gaps may exist in areas such as continuous improvement, leadership involvement, or documented results.
3	**Above Industry Standard**	The application presents mature processes, consistent execution, and evidence of continuous improvement. Practices exceed those of the average industrial contractor.

Score	Rating	Description
4	**Exemplary / World-Class**	The application demonstrates fully developed systems, proven results over time, and an exceptional safety culture. Programs and practices are mature, sustained, and represent world-class performance.

Note: Judges may award half points.

Categories

- General Construction and Maintenance
- Civil Construction
- Commercial Construction
- Crane and Rigging
- Specialty Trades, Soft Crafts (insulation, painting, scaffolding)
- Specialty Trades, Hard Crafts (mechanical, I/E, HVAC)
- Specialty Trades, Environmental (hydroblasting, chemical cleaning, chemical transportation)
- Technical Support (engineering, safety, inspection)
- Other categories as deemed necessary

Divisions

Nominees will be divided into three divisions based on company size and hours worked. The committee will determine the natural breakpoints for each category, so division sizes may vary from one category to another.

Awards Presented

Categorical Awards

- First Place: Award of Excellence
- Second Place: Award of Merit
- Third Place: Award of Recognition

Specialty Awards

- Innovation in Safety Award
- Community Service Award



- Partnership in Safety Award
- Hal G. Ginn Award (Best Overall)

The Innovation in Safety, Community Service, and Partnership in Safety Awards are judged separately from the categorical awards. Each specialty award submission is reviewed during the first round by the judges assigned to that application. A submission advances as a finalist only if every judge who reviewed it recommends it for further consideration. During the second round, the full judging group reviews all finalist submissions for each specialty award and selects the winner(s).

The Hal G. Ginn Award recognizes the best overall safety program among this year's applicants. Every company that earns First Place, Award of Excellence, in its division automatically becomes a finalist for this award. The committee selects the recipient(s) by considering each finalist's overall application score along with the quality of its safety programs.