



CALIFORNIA TRAINING OFFICERS

NOMINATION FORM

The Ed Bent Fire Instructor of the Year Award

Background

Each year during the California Training Officers' Training Symposium, a fire service instructor is presented with **The Ed Bent Fire Instructor of the Year Award** in recognition of being an *Outstanding Fire Instructor*. The award was created many years ago on behalf of Ed Bent for his contribution as a founding father of statewide training and curriculum for the California fire service.



Honoring Ed Bent's Memory (1917-2012)

Veteran Firefighter Ed Bent was a leader in establishing modern training and standards for California firefighters. Mr. Bent was instrumental in creating a professional model for the fire service. He spent 40 years as a firefighter, starting with the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1943. He moved to Redding in 1952 and became a state fire instructor responsible for training firefighters in 13 Northern California counties. He transferred to Sacramento and served almost two decades as superintendent of fire service training for the State Fire Marshal's Office in Sacramento. Under his leadership, California established statewide policies and programs for new firefighters, including

a fire academy and certification system. Mr. Bent wrote training texts for dealing with hazardous materials, building collapses and other safety issues. He taught classes for firefighting agencies in Western states and spoke at seminars for professional groups, including the Western Fire Chiefs Association and the National Fire Protection Association. Following his retirement in 1983, the California Training Officers Section of the California Fire Chiefs' Association established the **Ed Bent Training Excellence Award**, which is given annually to top firefighting instructors in the state. *"Ed Bent's contributions to the firefighting profession in California were of great significance at a time when the system could have failed," said former State Fire Marshal, Ron Coleman, "many people in firefighting today spend their careers under his influence."*

