

STATE of MICHIGAN VFW 2025-2026 VFW SAFETY PROGRAM

Each year, the VFW conducts safety awareness programs in six (6) major categories under which any drug or safety activity will fall. Virtually all drug or safety activities conducted by a Post can be reported within each of the six categories. Credit will be given only once for each activity.

THE SIX SAFETY PROGRAM CATEGORIES ARE:

1. **Highway Safety:** Any activity intended to improve individual driving skills and awareness of activities improving safety in our vehicles and on our roadways. (ex. Click It or Ticket, State approved driving course, Motorcycle Safety, Defensive Driving, etc.)
2. **Pedestrian Safety:** Any activity intended to improve individual awareness and visibility of nonmotorized vehicle riding skills, awareness and responsibility. (Bicycle Safety, Lite-a-Tike or Halloween Safety Bags, etc.)
3. **Recreational Safety:** Any organized activity associated with improving the skills and responsibilities of individuals engaged in recreational activities with children and/or adults. (ex. Hunter, Water/Boater, Outdoor, Winter Sports, Snowmobile, etc.)
4. **Home/Fire Safety:** Any activity designed to promote and inform individuals within the community about protecting their homes, possessions, and lives. (ex. Home/Fire Protection - Indoor/Outdoor, Security, Firearms Storage, Emergency Preparedness, etc.)
5. **Drug Awareness:** Any program designed to inform and protect your community from the influence of substance abuse, to include prescription drugs. (ex. D.A.R.E., PTA meetings, Substance/Alcohol Abuse awareness, Narcan (overdose) training, etc.)
6. **Recognition/Other:** Any program providing public recognition to members of the community who spend their workday protecting the lives and property of the public. Recognizing the heroism or safety achievements of those individuals in the community. This category may also be used to report activity which does not fit any of the above categories, to include cooperation with groups and organizations outside the VFW to recognize professionals and activities in the following areas:
 - Life Saving Award
 - Law Enforcement Officer
 - EMT/Paramedic
 - Firefighter
 - Dispatcher
 - Explosive Ordnance Technician
 - distribution of safety related materials

Post Awards:

Post awards will be based on the following membership division based on the June 30, 2025 National Membership report:

Membership Divisions:

Division	I	10-65
Division	II	66-125
Division	III	126-225
Division	IV	226 and over

The Post in each membership division reporting the greatest number of program related activities between May 1, 2025 and April 30, 2026 will receive a plaque from the State Commander at the 2026 State Convention.

The second and third place Post in each membership division reporting the greatest number of program related activities between May 1, 2025 and April 30, 2026 will receive a Department Citation from the State Commander at the 2026 State Convention.

District Awards:

Every District that is 100% reported in both Drug and Safety by April 30, 2026 will receive a Department Citation on the 2026 State Convention.

Recognition Program:

The VFW recognizes dedicated individuals who work in a paid or volunteer status in a variety of public safety roles. Each Post may submit to the State Safety Director one nomination in each of the following five (5) categories:

- Firefighter
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)/Paramedic
- Law Enforcement Officer (LEO)
- Emergency Dispatcher
- Explosive Ordnance Technician (EOD)

Nominations must be received on proper forms to the Director **NO LATER THAN January 1st, 2026.** (See the website links for application) The State Safety Director, through the voting committee, will then select and submit one entry from each category to VFW National Headquarters no later than February 1, 2026. Each selected nominee will be invited by the Director to attend the 2026 Department Convention and presented with a plaque from the VFW of Michigan and a National Citation. Sponsoring Posts will be 100% responsible for any transportation or housing expenses of award recipients in attendance.

Through service to our communities and recognition of local heroes and heroines, your Posts and Districts spread goodwill which increases public support for the great work you are doing. Let's stay committed to Drug and Safety Awareness in our communities and across the Great State of Michigan!

State Director
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