EMPA Awards for Excellence – judging criteria



Media

Integrity	Accurate, fair and balanced
Contribution to community understanding	 Supports better community understanding of a hazard / risk / opportunity / what to do [or not to do] in an emergency / how to access assistance. Presents complex information in ways that make it easier for a lay audience to understand. Acknowledges and accurately represents underlying research or scientific knowledge. Content supports positive behaviour change that will help save lives / minimise impacts / enhance recovery. Acknowledges uncertainty, where new research has altered
Timing	 advice, or where a situation is evolving Comprehensive and accurate reporting before or during an
	emergency response, contributing to public safety.
Behavioural influence	Does not directly or indirectly promote unsafe behaviour (eg publishing / broadcasting footage or photographs of people driving through floods / playing in flood water)
Tenacity	 The complexity of the story / coverage The effort involved in researching / writing / producing

Alignment with the EMPA Principles

Partnership	 Evidence of an effort to build a relationship between sources [eg scientists / responders / emergency communications professionals] and the journalist outside an emergency. Was there an explicit intent from the outset that the published / broadcast work would support or improve community preparedness / understanding?
Wider environment	Demonstrates an understanding of the broader sector / environment being written about [particularly in features rather than straight "news"].
Creativity	Well written / presented and engaging.
Diversity	Evidence of an effort to make the coverage relevant to / accessible by harder-to-reach audiences who may be more vulnerable in an emergency.