

IAFC Honors Katherine West with James O. Page EMS Achievement Award

November 17, 2020

Katherine West, RN, BSN, MEd, CIC was named the 2020 recipient of the James O. Page EMS Achievement Award. The annual award is presented to a leader who has made a positive impact on a national scale, creating, and promoting non-clinical innovation and achievements in fire service EMS management.

For nearly 50 years, Kathy West has dedicated herself to the field of infection control for the fire and emergency medical services (EMS) field. Kathy is a prolific writer, speaker, and educator on the topic of effective strategies for infection control for fire departments. She is a longstanding and recurring presenter at the IAFC's Fire-Rescue Med conference where she teaches each year on infection control practices for fire departments. Kathy also has helped the IAFC develop policies and guidances on infection control topics such as emerging diseases and implementation of the Ryan White Act.

Ms. West has been an active member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) EMS Section for many years and currently serves as co-chair of the EMS Section's Emerging Diseases Committee. She is a past recipient of the EMS Section Distinguished Service Award for her guidance as the fire service faced several other viral epidemics, including H1N1 and Ebola, as well as other biological threats including the weaponization of anthrax. Ms. West also is actively involved in other infection control organizations and endeavors including serving on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Public Safety Infection Control Officers. In 2006, she was named to the Heroes of Infection Prevention list by the Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology.

“The EMS Section is especially pleased to honor Kathy West with the James O. Page EMS Achievement Award in recognition of her lifelong dedication to infection control and her long-standing service to the EMS Section,” said Chief Mike McEvoy, EMS Section chair. “Kathy has worked tirelessly to educate thousands of fire and EMS providers on the importance of infection control. As the United States continues wrestling with an unparalleled pandemic, I can think of no more deserving individual than Kathy.”

Chief McEvoy presented the award at Fire-Rescue Med, a leading, national educational forum for fire-based EMS officials hosted by the IAFC.

Ms. West joins an impressive cadre of [previous James O. Page Award winners](#). The award honors those who demonstrate enthusiasm and dedication toward fire-based EMS, professionalism and vision, a desire for achievement, a drive for excellence, and exemplary performance and leadership.

About the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)

The IAFC represents the leadership of firefighters and emergency responders worldwide. IAFC

members are the world's leading experts in firefighting, emergency medical services, terrorism response, hazardous materials spills, natural disasters, search and rescue, and public safety legislation. Since 1873, the IAFC has provided a forum for its members to exchange ideas, develop professionally and uncover the latest products and services available to first responders. [Learn more](#)