



Safety Conference Registration

Name: _____ Employer: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

CHOOSE ONE TRAINING TOPIC PER TIME SLOT

MONDAY — MARCH 3, 2025

7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

- Real-World Examples of Courage in Leadership
- Tragedies in the Trenches
- Alphabet Soup for Lockout/Tagout: OSHA, ANSI, NFPA
- A Do-It-Yourself Work Plan for MEWPs

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- An Electrical PPE Program Just For You
- Turning Up the Heat on a New OSHA Standard
- Trouble in the Tunnel: Risks and Solutions
- The Effect of Employee Burnout on Worksite Safety

1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

- Industrial Hygiene Concerns in Construction
- The Root Cause of Safety Failures: Choose Wisely
- The ABC's - and D&E's of Fall Protection
- Collaboration Strategies Between Management & Field

TUESDAY — MARCH 4, 2025

7:15 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.

- An AI-Powered Alternative to Safety Management
- What's Wrong With This Picture? Get Risk Assessments Right
- Soft Tissue Injuries are Preventable
- Accountability for Safety: Whose Job Is It Anyway?

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

- KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**
EMBRACE THE YES

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

- Edwin S. Rearick Construction Safety Forum - Part I
- How to React and Respond to an OSHA Accusation
- From Enforcer to Ally: Creating a Culture of Caring
- After the Fall: Suspension Trauma

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- Edwin S. Rearick Construction Safety Forum - Part II
- The Power of AI: Practical Applications for EHS Managers
- Mental Health in Construction: Are We Doing Enough?
- Yo! Why the Attitude?

SAFETY CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Monday — March 3, 2025

Monday, March 3rd
7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

REAL-WORLD EXAMPLES OF COURAGE IN LEADERSHIP

Training Track: Advanced

Presenter: *Larry Gaston*
Gaston, Inc.

Join this profound discussion about the essence of leadership, which is to demonstrate strength of character while managing people and processes towards intended outcomes. Typically, you know it when you see it, hear it, or feel it. The lack of leadership is similarly obvious – and usually conspicuous by its absence. Learn from vivid workplace examples of impactful leadership.

Monday, March 3rd
7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

TRAGEDIES IN THE TRENCHES

Training Track: Intermediate

Presenter: *AJ Gajdosik*
Acuity Insurance

This session will analyze the alarming recurrence of fatalities in underground construction. In spite of a multi-year, nationwide emphasis on this hazard, the death toll is disturbing. Discussion of real-life examples ripped from the headlines will expose common causes and drive home valuable lessons to be learned. This knowledge to be shared will help stop the insanity.

Monday, March 3rd
7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

ALPHABET SOUP FOR LOCKOUT/TAGOUT: OSHA, ANSI, NFPA, ASSP

Training Track: Advanced

Presenter: *Wes Wheeler*
National Electrical Contractors Association

Gain a unique skill set by becoming proficient in the development of a hazardous energy control, or lockout/tagout (LOTO), program in compliance with the requirements of multiple standards. Learn best practices to protect those who service and maintain equipment and machinery, especially craft workers, electricians, and laborers. Their lives depend on it.

Monday, March 3rd
7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**A DO-IT-YOURSELF (DIY) WORK PLAN
FOR MOBILE ELEVATED WORK PLATFORMS**

Training Track: Intermediate

Presenter: *Tony Groat*
International Powered Access Federation

In accordance with ANSI/SAIA standards, a safe use program for mobile elevated work platform (MEWP) equipment requires previewing a jobsite, performing a risk assessment, selecting the appropriate apparatus, preparing a rescue plan, and engaging qualified supervisors and workers. If aerial lifts are an integral part of your operations, then you need this prototype for success.

Monday, March 3rd
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**AN ELECTRICAL PPE PROGRAM
JUST FOR YOU**

Training Track: Intermediate

Presenter: *Adam Meza* *Jim Ward*
National Safety Apparel *National Safety Apparel*

An in-depth dialogue about successful strategies for developing and investing in electrical PPE that your employees will embrace. From headgear to footwear and every type of flame-resistant clothing in between, gain insight into the most common pain points, questions, and concerns. The NFPA 70E safety standard and trusted technologies provide much-needed solutions.

Monday, March 3rd
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**TURNING UP THE HEAT
ON A NEW OSHA STANDARD**

Training Track: Basic

Presenter: *JoAnn Dankert*
Exceed Safety

In the Summer 2024, OSHA proposed a national heat illness and injury prevention standard applicable to all construction employees – outdoors and indoors. It would require employers to protect employees from this deadly hazard. Get the most up-to-date information about the timing and significance of this new regulation, especially in a new presidential administration.

Monday, March 3rd
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**TROUBLE IN THE TUNNEL:
RISKS AND SOLUTIONS**

Training Track: Advanced

Presenter: *John Newquist*
Newquist Safety

Tunnel construction is a critical component of modern infrastructure projects, ranging from transportation networks to utility corridors. This underground environment is fraught with danger and an air of unpredictability that involves geological, mechanical, and human factors. Fortunately, there are innovative strategies and technologies available to mitigate these hazards.

Monday, March 3rd
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**THE EFFECT OF EMPLOYEE BURNOUT
ON WORKSITE SAFETY**

Training Track: Intermediate

Presenter: *Keith Wheeler*
HR Resources of the Carolinas

There is a correlation between workplace stress and under-performance, which, in turn, threatens jobsite safety. Employers must be cognizant of and responsive to employee burnout. Successful companies are those that can define, identify, and address the well-being of their workforce. Proactive strategies to accomplish this will be discussed.

Monday, March 3rd
1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

**INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE CONCERNS
IN CONSTRUCTION**

Training Track: Basic

Presenter: *George Gruetzmacher*
Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

An effective industrial hygiene program is designed to protect employees from injuries and illnesses, such as respiratory concerns, skin diseases, chemical exposures, and hearing loss. The onset of these conditions is not immediate, but usually occurs over a prolonged period of time. Learn to identify these hazards in your workplace and reduce their impact - before it's too late.

Monday, March 3rd
1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

**THE ROOT CAUSE OF SAFETY FAILURES:
CHOOSE WISELY**

Training Track: Advanced

Presenter: *Scott Debo*
ArchKey Solutions

How could this happen? Perhaps it was a misguided policy or procedure - or maybe due to faulty equipment. More likely, however, it was a decision-making process gone wrong. Learn how – and why – we make the choices we do. This will lead to a better understanding of what is needed to create a true culture of safety that starts at the top and gets implemented daily in the field.

Monday, March 3rd
1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

**THE ABC's - AND D&E's
OF FALL PROTECTION**

Training Track: Intermediate

Presenters: *Chris Murray* *Mike Schremp*
Werner Fall Protection *Bird Ladder*

It's as simple as... Your written safety program should outline the measures, procedures, and equipment to be used to prevent or minimize the risk of falls. Essential components of a plan include identifying hazards, determining controls, providing PPE, and planning a rescue. Join the conversation about how to combat this leading cause of construction injuries and fatalities.

Monday, March 3rd
1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

**STRATEGIES FOR COLLABORATION
BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND THE FIELD**

Training Track: Basic

Presenter: *Mike Kalinowski* *Gary Gore* *Terry Klingele*
W.E. O'Neil *Matador3* *Mortenson*

Strong connections between construction management personnel and boots-on-the-ground staff lead to improved project execution and enhanced employee morale. Working together as a team and sharing the same core values breeds success. Learn from an industry leader about the tactics used to inspire higher productivity, mutual understanding, and job satisfaction.

SAFETY CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Tuesday — March 4, 2025

Tuesday, March 4th
7:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

AN AI-POWERED ALTERNATIVE TO SAFETY MANAGEMENT

Training Track: Advanced

Presenters: *Ben Ross* *Dan Ruane*
 FactorLab *Pepper Construction*

Explore how Artificial Intelligence is revolutionizing construction safety, empowering contractors to accelerate change, and building high-impact cultures faster and more cost-effectively than ever before. This is a case study about an innovative approach to task hazard analysis that shuns burdensome, low-value field reporting in favor of improved planning and better teamwork.

Tuesday, March 4th
7:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? DOING RISK ASSESSMENTS RIGHT

Training Track: Intermediate

Presenter: *Tony Groat*
 International Powered Access Federation

An effective pre-task risk assessment has been proven to minimize the likelihood of surprise endings. Participate in this review of accident scene photos involving the use of mobile elevated work platform (MEWP) equipment. Group discussion will provide consensus about the control measures and workplace procedures that would have prevented these incidents.

Tuesday, March 4th
7:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

SOFT TISSUE INJURIES ARE PREVENTABLE

Training Track: Basic

Presenter: *Dr. Sargon Odisho*
 The Chicago Fix

Similar to motorized and electric equipment on a jobsite, the human body needs maintenance. A regular plan for the upkeep of muscles, tendons, ligaments, and joints extends their useful life. It also provides cost savings by eliminating lost wages and work hours. Learn about simple strategies, such as on-the-job stretching and at-home therapies, to reduce soft tissue injuries.

Tuesday, March 4th
7:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

**ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SAFETY:
WHOSE JOB IS IT ANYWAY?**

Training Track: Basic

Presenter: *Shae Birkey*
 Caterpillar

It is often stated that “*Safety is Everyone’s Responsibility.*” Less frequently understood, however, is who is responsible, what is expected, and how it gets measured. This is the essence of personal accountability – but without it, safety excellence cannot be achieved. This dialogue will address best practices that ensure responsibility from all who truly share a commitment to safety.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Tuesday, March 4th
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



EMBRACE THE YES

**The Unconventional Way
to Prevent, Break Through,
and Stop Burnout at Work**

**by
Jessica Rector**

The mental health crisis that is evident in all occupations is especially impactful in the construction industry. Employee burnout is the leading reason workers leave their positions.

Jessica’s enthusiasm for this topic is backed by research that shows a better way. She has a unique approach to beating burnout on the job. And it works!

For employees, she provides tools to create better habits for a stronger life/work balance. Employers, too, will learn how to keep their best workers thriving – while increasing retention, improving morale, and inspiring employee engagement like never before.

This Keynote Address will challenge traditional thinking and provide a transformational experience that not only empowers and energizes attendees, but also ignites a culture of resilience, performance, and success. Say “*YES*” to Jessica’s strategies that extinguish burnout.

Tuesday, March 4th
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

EDWIN S. REARICK
CONSTRUCTION SAFETY FORUM – PART I
Training Track: Basic

Presenters: *OSHA Chicago Region Area Office Staff*

Learn from those who have gone before you. Hear several case studies of actual inspections performed by federal safety officials in our local communities. Their stories serve as examples for others. This lively, interactive dialogue is dedicated to the memory of Edwin Rearick - an OSHA field representative for more than two decades in the State of Illinois.

Tuesday, March 4th
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

HOW TO REACT AND RESPOND
TO AN OSHA ACCUSATION
Training Track: Intermediate

Presenters: *Adam Young* *Mark Lies*
Seyfarth Shaw, LLP *Seyfarth Shaw, LLP*

OSHA brings the power of the federal government to its role as an enforcer of safety standards. The agency oftentimes operates without advance notice while targeting the construction industry for perceived violations of civil and criminal law. Learn about plausible defenses to these inspections and citations. Also, gain useful legal advice about protections from prosecution.

Tuesday, March 4th
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

FROM ENFORCER TO ALLY:
CREATING A CULTURE OF CARING
Training Track: Advanced

Presenter: *Shae Birkey*
Caterpillar

Too often, the response to a workplace injury or incident is to assign blame and enforce a penalty. This is counter-productive, however, and does not enhance employee morale. A more effective approach is to create an environment where workers are supported for speaking up and sharing ideas that prevent mistakes from recurring. It can be done, resulting in tangible benefits for all.

Tuesday, March 4th
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

**AFTER THE FALL:
SUSPENSION TRAUMA**

Training Track: Basic

Presenter: *Eric Hedman*
City of Naperville

Following deployment of a fall arrest system, a construction worker in peril is susceptible to other less-obvious dangers. The time spent suspended above can be as deadly as the fall below. Learn about techniques that provide protection from the physical effects of these traumatic incidents. This life-saving knowledge is essential for victims, bystanders, and rescuers alike.

Tuesday, March 4th
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**EDWIN S. REARICK
CONSTRUCTION SAFETY FORUM – PART II**

Training Track: Basic

Presenters: *OSHA Chicago Region Area Office Staff*

Learn from those who have gone before you. Hear several case studies of actual inspections performed by federal safety officials in our local communities. Their stories serve as examples for others. This lively, interactive dialogue is dedicated to the memory of Edwin Rearick - an OSHA field representative for more than two decades in the State of Illinois.

Tuesday, March 4th
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**THE POWER OF AI:
PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS FOR EHS MANAGERS**

Training Track: Intermediate

Presenters: *Alex Watts* *Shane Steward*
Safety-Chat *Safety-Chat*

Artificial Intelligence is here for good – and for good reason – which is promising for the environmental health and safety industry. This presentation highlights successful examples of AI implementation that have enhanced protocols, streamlined compliance, and improved overall site safety. Discussion will focus on how this technology is to be revered, not feared.

Tuesday, March 4th
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**MENTAL HEALTH IN CONSTRUCTION:
ARE WE DOING ENOUGH?**

Training Track: Basic

Presenter: *Steve Lindley*
 Ozinga

The construction industry is facing a mental health crisis unlike any other it has experienced. Alarming, an estimated 6,000 workers die by suicide each year. Even more struggle with anxiety and depression at rates higher than the national average in other professions. These trends require a renewed commitment of human support and helpful resources. Get involved.

Tuesday, March 4th
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

YO! WHY THE ATTITUDE?

Training Track: Basic

Presenter: *AJ Gajdosik*
 Acuity Insurance

Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference. This session exposes five different examples of personal behavior that contribute to an unsafe environment for others. As intolerable as this may be, the appropriate response should be thoughtful - not spontaneous. Participate in this entertaining discussion about how to neutralize negative attitudes in the workplace.