

2026 SAFETY CONFERENCE AGENDA

JULY 23-24 | Austin, TX Marriott Downtown Austin

Thursday, July 23th

TIME	SESSIONS	LOCATION
7:00AM - 5:00PM	Registration Open (Sponsored by Mears)	Waller Pre-Function Area
11:30AM - 1:30PM	SGA Awards Ceremony & Luncheon Annual SGA Awards, Meritorious Action, and Committee Chair Recognition	Waller Salon CD
Afternoon Sessions		
1:30PM - 2:30PM	Telematics Roundtable Discussion Moderator: Brandy Silvio & James Owens Description: The session will focus on reviewing and discussing the results of the telematics survey, providing attendees an opportunity to engage in collaborative dialogue about telematics data and insights relevant to safety operations	Waller Salon A
1:30PM - 2:30PM	Doing Safety Differently Speaker: Paul Hurysz Description: Paul Hurysz's work in Health and Safety, grounded in Human and Organizational Performance (HOP), aims to create a crucial link between safety and operations teams. The core objective is to drive both to greater system efficiency and a reduction in undesirable outcomes. He is committed to demystifying safety and human performance principles for everyone, focusing on solving the issues that truly matter.	Waller Salon B
2:30PM - 2:40PM	Break	Pre-function Area
2:40PM - 3:40PM	High Energy Hazard Recognition and Controls Speaker: Paul Hurysz Description: Most safety professionals and operations managers in the utility industry agree on two key facts concerning employee safety. Firstly, hazard recognition is critical; hazards must be identified before they can be prioritized or controlled. Secondly, despite decades of efforts to improve work practices, the industry has seen no reduction in serious injuries and fatalities.	Waller Salons E
2:40PM - 3:40PM	Incident Management Speaker: Karl Leger, John Jacobi Description: Incident Management focuses on preparing for, responding to, and learning from operational events to protect people, assets, and the environment. This session equips natural gas safety and operations professionals with practical strategies to strengthen coordination, decision-making, and resilience before, during, and after incidents.	Waller Salon A
3:40 - 3:55PM	Break	Pre-function Area
3:55PM - 5:00PM	Closing Keynote: Where Safety Meets Performance: Elevating Operations Through Trust, Precision, and Execution Nate "Utah" Scott, Former Blue Angel #4 (Slot Pilot)	Waller Salon CD
5:30PM - 8:30 PM	Special Event: Gas Rocks Gas Rocks is our signature off-site experience—designed to bring conference attendees together in a relaxed, high-energy setting. Join us in Austin at a unique new venue 'Brazos Hall' for an evening of great food, live music, and meaningful connection.	Brazos Hall, 204 East 4th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Friday, July 24th

7:00AM - 10:30AM	Registration Open (Sponsored by Mears)	Waller Ballroom East Foyer
7:00AM- 8:00AM	Breakfast	Waller C-D
Morning Sessions		
8:30AM - 9:30AM	The Real Benefit of Regulatory Compliance for Worker Protection, Operational Safety and Environmental Stewardship Speaker: Karl Leger, John Jacobi Real benefits include operational and commercial risk management (e.g., risk reduction), Enhanced Mechanical Integrity of Equipment, Effective Public and Governmental Stewardship, and Strengthening of Corporate Image, Business Relationships, Risk Mitigations, and Profitability. Discuss the benefits of fully integrating regulatory compliance into a corporate structure across the entire organization. Discuss the benefits of personnel development and retention and enhanced decision making and communications.	403
9:45AM - 10:30AM	A Practical View of Implementing HOP Speaker: Paul Hurysz Paul's interest in Health and Safety, as well as Human and Organizational Performance (HOP), is focused on creating a bridge between safety and operations professionals that results in improving system efficiencies and unwanted outcomes. His goal is to simplify safety and an understanding of human performance for all while solving problems that really matter. This presentation will focus on three areas that he believes are critical to developing learning organizations/cultures.	405
9:45AM - 10:30AM	Incident Survey Roundtable Moderator: James Owens This roundtable provides attendees an opportunity to review and discuss the incident survey results from 2025, facilitating collaborative dialogue on trends, lessons learned, and actionable insights to improve safety performance across the industry.	403

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10:45AM - 11:45AM	Power BI and Its Impact on Regulatory Compliance Data Analysis and Decision Making Speaker: Karl Leger, John Jacobi Discuss the benefits of Language Learning Modules and Power BI in developing and maintaining regulatory and company required Programs, Policies, and Procedures. Provide examples of data analysis from the actual regulatory requirement, historical enforcement actions, letters of interpretation, advisory bulletins, and company compliance and operational performance.	403
10:45AM - 11:45AM	SGA Committees: Employee Health and Safety committee meeting	405