



Training

ASSE Safety 2018: Your Guide to the Top Safety Management Conference

Gillian Scott | May 10, 2018

What You Need to Know

Pre- and post-conference sessions let attendees add on additional continuing education credits, earning up to 3.9 credits if they attend the full range of offerings before, during and after the conference.

General sessions feature talks from thought leaders in the safety industry. This year will also feature a reprise of last year's town hall debate format.

More than 240 concurrent sessions covering a gamut of topics let participants dive deeper into a subject area or expand their knowledge into a new aspect of safety.

Key issue collaboration sessions let attendees share experiences and best practices with their peers in a structured discussion format.

Flash sessions, social media stations and other options for networking and learning in quick bites are scheduled throughout the conference.

The Safety 2018 Professional Development Conference & Exposition offers a variety of ways for participants to gather new information, brush up on skills and earn continuing education credits and certifications. The hot topics expected to be discussed include violence in the workplace and the new ISO 45001 standard.

Want to broaden your safety knowledge or perhaps recertify your safety credentials? The ASSE Safety 2018 Conference is the latest annual professional development conference from the American Society of Safety Engineers for certified safety professionals. Its exhibitors and education programs allow attendees to learn about industry trends and the latest health and safety management innovations. Each year, the event attracts safety and health professionals from 40 different countries.

Dan McNeill, ASSE's director of professional development, says this year's event in San Antonio, Texas, is on track for record attendance. Including exhibitors, sponsors, speakers and attendees, more than 8,000 people are expected. The event takes place Sunday, June 3, through Wednesday, June 6, at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center.

McNeill says most attendees come for the education. "We're known more than any other conference for the education," he says. Safety 2018 will feature more than 20 hours of accredited education in

concurrent sessions, flash sessions, key issue collaboration sessions and panels. Here's a closer look at some of the offerings.

ASSE Safety 2018 Professional Development Conference & Exposition: Pre- and Post-Conference Courses

ASSE is accredited by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training, so attendees can earn up to 1.8 continuing education credits for attending the full conference—and can earn up to 3.9 credits if they attend pre- and post-conference seminars.

The one- and two-day pre-conference courses run on Saturday, June 2, and Sunday, June 3, while three-day post-conference courses run from Wednesday, June 6, through Saturday, June 9. An additional fee and pre-registration is required for both. **Pre-conference offerings** range from leadership techniques to a class on multicultural considerations when communicating or offering training on safety issues. **Post-conference courses** begin with a half-day math review for certification exams on Wednesday, followed by three-day courses ranging from an ISO 45001 certificate program to a Safety Management Specialist exam prep course.

Come Visit Us

MSC Industrial Supply will be exhibiting at the Safety 2018 Professional Development Conference & Exposition.

Our team will be sharing the latest innovations and news, and helping end users find solutions for all Safety needs. In addition, MSC's booth will feature fun and informative interactive demonstrations. Be sure to stop by and meet the team at booth 1625.

Get your FREE pass, (\$100 value) courtesy of MSC [here](#).

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Dan McNeill

Director of Professional Development, ASSE

ASSE Safety 2018 Conference: General Session Preview

General sessions provide an opportunity for conference attendees to hear from thought leaders in the safety world. McNeill says a session on workplace violence—"The Before and After Summit: A Safety Professional's Guide to Prepare For, React To, and Address Workplace Violence Events"—is expected to be of particular interest. A panel of experts, representing the FBI, local law enforcement and human resources, will discuss the before, during and after of active shooter events. "We're trying to give safety professionals some tools to go back with to prepare for something like this," McNeill says.

Also, after successfully introducing a town hall debate to the mix last year, Safety 2018 reprises the format with a new topic, "Operationalizing It!" Tom Krause, founder of Krause Bell Group, whose mission is to develop innovative approaches to safety performance improvement, Scott Geller, Ph.D., president of Safety Performance Solutions, and Todd Conklin, a human and organization performance

consultant, will debate serious injury and fatality prevention. Along with a panel of safety executives, including an executive from Tesla Motors, they'll discuss two different approaches to safety—behavior-based safety versus human and organizational performance—and how companies can transition their systems to either method.

ASSE Safety 2018 Concurrent Sessions: Hot Topic Will Be New ISO 45001 Standard

The conference offers more than 240 *concurrent educational sessions*, each one lasting for either an hour or an hour and 15 minutes. Sessions are divided into four levels—basic, intermediate, advanced and executive—providing options for a variety of professionals. There are 24 tracks to choose from, from “Business Skills and Personal Development” to “Transportation.”

McNeill says attendees are not tied to one track. “The idea is that when you come, it’s a buffet of topics,” he says. Someone in construction safety can take courses focused on that subject, but they can also take courses in unrelated tracks. “We want you to get outside your wheelhouse and learn about different things.”

One of the hotter topics in concurrent sessions this year will be the new *ISO 45001 standard*, which replaces OHSAS 18001, McNeill says. Multiple sessions will address different aspects of the newly published international standard.

ASSE Safety 2018: Key Issue Collaboration Sessions

Safety professionals can share best practices and learn from each other during *these sessions*, which run Monday to Wednesday for either an hour or an hour and 15 minutes each. Sessions cover topics such as “Health Risks for Utility Workers,” “Emergency Planning and Preparedness” and “Vapor Intrusion Fundamentals.”

McNeill says ASSE provides a facilitator and a note-taker to get the ball rolling, but participants really drive the sessions. “It is meant to be kind of an organized brainstorm,” he says. “The knowledge comes from the attendees, not from the people in the front of the room.”

You probably have an emergency action plan in place, but do you have a plan to get your business up and running after? Learn all about business continuity planning.

ASSE Safety 2018: Learning in Quick Bites

Besides the longer, more formal sessions, the conference also offers a variety of opportunities to connect with fellow attendees and pick up information in a faster format. These include:

- **Flash sessions:** These *15-minute sessions*, led sometimes by exhibitors but often by concurrent session presenters, offer short takes on key topics, from using video to drive website traffic and engagement to safety leadership tips for frontline supervisors.
- **Social learning stations:** These allow conference attendees to network and share experiences in a less structured environment.
- **Lunch & Learn:** A new feature to the conference this year is Lunch & Learn sessions. Conference-goers can choose to eat lunch on their own or join discussion groups. A “Pitch” option lets attendees pitch a safety message to upper management professionals, getting feedback on message effectiveness and ways to make sure it’s heard by the operations side of business.

A *schedule tool* and a conference app both help conference attendees keep track of which sessions they

plan to attend. There's a lot of ground to cover and it's impossible to attend every session, but recordings of more than 150 of the concurrent sessions will be available free to all registered attendees within a few weeks of the conference.

McNeill recommends that attendees come with an open mind and a plan of attack on what they want to get out of the conference. "Come with some questions you want to ask other attendees," he says. "Don't just come and isolate yourself. Come with the idea that you're part of this larger group of safety professionals and you're there to help each other out."

And, he adds, "Have some comfortable shoes."

Are you planning to attend ASSE Safety 2018? Let us know which educational topics you're most interested in.

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