



ARIZONA HEALTH & SAFETY SUMMIT 2026

September 25, 2026 | Desert Willow Conference Center, Phoenix



PRESENTER

Christina Collins, CIH, CSP, CRL

Senior Industrial Hygienist, Central Arizona Project

Session: Reliability as a Safety Strategy: Reducing Risk Through Maintenance Excellence (with Philip Rettinger)

BIOGRAPHY

Christina Collins is a Certified Industrial Hygienist, Certified Safety Professional, and Certified Reliability Leader. She is the Senior Industrial Hygienist for Central Arizona Project and has been working in the field of Environmental, Health, and Safety for over 20 years. She received her BS in Environmental Science and her Master of Public Health from the University of Arizona. Currently, she serves as the Chair for the AIHA Confined Spaces Committee and as the Treasurer for the AIHA Arizona Local Section.

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

Maintenance and safety often operate in separate silos, but we know they are deeply connected. Failures in equipment reliability are usually the first step toward a safety incident. This session explores how a major water utility integrated Reliability-Centered Maintenance (RCM) with its Safety Management Program to bridge that gap. We will move beyond basic preventative maintenance to show how a systematic RCM approach proactively eliminates workplace hazards. By aligning these programs, organizations can reduce catastrophic failures and minimize the high-pressure unscheduled maintenance scenarios where a significant portion of industrial injuries occur.

Co-hosted by the ASSP Arizona Chapter and AIHA Arizona



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PRESENTER

Philip Rettinger

Director of Centralized Maintenance and Reliability, Central Arizona Project

Session: Reliability as a Safety Strategy: Reducing Risk Through Maintenance Excellence (with Christina Collins)

BIOGRAPHY

Philip Rettinger is the Central Arizona Project Director of Centralized Maintenance and Reliability. He is responsible for centralized work execution teams that perform mechanical overhauls and rebuilds, machining, protective coatings, and fleet maintenance. In addition, this team is responsible for maintenance planning and reliability engineering functions for civil, electrical, and mechanical assets. Phil is a graduate of Purdue University and holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering and reliability certifications as a Certified Reliability Leader and Certified Maintenance and Reliability Professional.

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

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PRESENTER

Esmail Zarei, Ph.D., CSP, ASP

Associate Professor of Safety Science, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University;
Founder, Risk Analytics AI, LLC

Session: AI-Driven Occupational Safety Risk Analytics: From Data to Decisions

BIOGRAPHY

Esmail Zarei, Ph.D., CSP, ASP, is an Associate Professor of Safety Science at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and the founder of Risk Analytics AI, LLC. His work focuses on advancing the use of artificial intelligence, data analytics, and risk-based decision-making in occupational safety and health. He specializes in the practical application of specialized generative AI and AI agents to help organizations transform safety data into actionable insights, improve hazard recognition, and support proactive risk prevention.

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

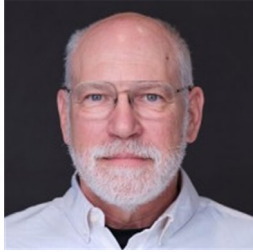
This technical session explores how artificial intelligence is transforming occupational safety by turning large volumes of safety data into actionable risk intelligence. Participants will learn how AI-driven analytics, specialized generative AI models, and autonomous agents can analyze incident reports, inspections, audits, near-miss observations, training records, and other safety data to identify emerging hazards, detect risk trends, and prioritize corrective actions. The presentation demonstrates practical strategies for moving beyond traditional lagging indicators toward predictive and prescriptive safety analytics that support earlier intervention and more informed decision-making. Attendees will also gain insight into key implementation considerations, including data quality, governance, explainability, ethics, privacy, and the critical role of human oversight in ensuring AI recommendations align with professional safety judgment.

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PRESENTER

Kenneth Keberle, CSP

Principal, 611 Resource Group

Session: Decoding Standards: Turning Words into Actions

BIOGRAPHY

Kenneth is a safety professional focused on education and training. He has spent most of his career emphasizing the live events and entertainment industries. For the last several years he has focused on standards and trainer education through UC San Diego. He teaches OSHA 510 and 511, safety trainer courses, fall protection, scaffolding and mobile equipment safety training. Additionally, he develops certificate programs for the Live Event Safety Certificate and has served as the educational director for the Event Safety Alliance.

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

This technical session provides participants with a practical understanding of how regulations and standards are structured and how to effectively interpret and apply their requirements in the workplace. Attendees will learn a systematic approach for navigating regulatory and consensus standards, identifying applicable requirements, and translating those requirements into actionable policies, procedures, and expectations for both employers and employees. By the end of the session, participants will be able to locate and interpret relevant provisions within a given set of regulations or standards and confidently convert compliance requirements into effective workplace practices.

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PRESENTER

Chantell Cornett, PhDc, CFEI

Principal, Ward Cornett & Associates

Session: Incident to Investigation: What Went Wrong (Again), A Duty Analysis

BIOGRAPHY

Chantell J. Cornett is a forensic engineer, licensed general contractor, and Ph.D. candidate at Arizona State University specializing in construction safety, structural systems, and engineering standard of care. She is Principal at Ward Cornett & Associates, where she investigates construction incidents, evaluates code compliance, and provides expert analysis in matters involving workplace safety, structural failures, and construction practices. Her work focuses on jobsite hazards, fall protection, incident investigation, and documentation practices that affect regulatory compliance and litigation outcomes. She frequently presents on construction safety, engineering ethics, and emerging technologies influencing engineering practice.

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

Traditional incident investigations frequently rely on Root Cause Analysis to explain why an event occurred. While useful for identifying contributing factors, this approach often stops short of addressing a critical question in safety practice: who had the duty to act and whether that duty was fulfilled. This session introduces a complementary framework, Duty Analysis, which bridges the gap between identifying causes and understanding responsibility and accountability within complex work environments. Drawing from real forensic investigations across construction and general industry, attendees will examine case studies where gaps in documentation, observation, and timing complicated the determination of responsibility after an incident. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to strengthen documentation, improve investigative rigor, and translate incident findings into defensible conclusions.

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PRESENTER

Ryan M. Whitney, PhDc, MS, GSP, CIEC, CEICC, CFSC

Environmental Biologist and Senior Industrial Hygienist

Session: Understanding OSHA Subpart Z: What Do We Know and What Are We Missing?

BIOGRAPHY

Ryan Whitney is an Environmental Biologist and Senior Industrial Hygienist with extensive experience in occupational and environmental health, exposure assessment, and regulatory compliance. Throughout his career, Ryan has worked with organizations across a variety of industries to identify, evaluate, and control workplace health hazards, including chemical, biological, and physical exposures. His expertise includes industrial hygiene monitoring, hazardous materials management, environmental compliance, and worker health protection programs. Ryan is recognized for his practical approach to exposure assessment and risk management, helping employers translate complex regulatory requirements into effective workplace solutions.

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

OSHA Subpart Z contains some of the most complex and frequently misunderstood occupational health requirements in general industry. This technical session examines common misconceptions surrounding exposure limits and compliance requirements for toxic and hazardous substances, with a focus on hazards such as hexavalent chromium and cadmium. Participants will explore whether current exposure assessment strategies accurately reflect employee risk, how sampling data should be interpreted, and whether organizations truly understand and apply OSHA Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs) correctly. Through practical examples and real-world scenarios, attendees will gain a clearer understanding of regulatory expectations, exposure monitoring practices, and potential gaps between compliance efforts and actual worker protection.

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PRESENTER

Latisha Russell

Emotional Wellness and Leadership Strategist, Latisha B. Russell, LLC

Session: Overcoming Burnout and Leading with Resilience

BIOGRAPHY

Latisha B. Russell is an Emotional Wellness and Leadership Strategist, Executive Coach, and founder of Latisha B. Russell, LLC. With more than 20 years of corporate HR and leadership experience, she helps organizations develop resilient, emotionally intelligent leaders who can sustain performance in high-pressure environments. Her work focuses on strengthening leadership resilience, improving communication under stress, and building healthier workplace cultures that support both safety and performance. Latisha has worked with organizations including The Walt Disney Company, Bank of America, and T-Mobile and has delivered leadership presentations for SHRM chapters, professional associations, and executive leadership programs.

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

Burnout is an increasing challenge in high-pressure work environments where leaders must balance operational demands, team wellbeing, and safety outcomes. When leaders and teams experience chronic stress, it can affect communication, decision-making, and overall safety culture. This session explores how leaders can strengthen resilience while maintaining focus, performance, and accountability. Participants will examine how burnout develops in demanding environments and how leadership behaviors influence team engagement, trust, and psychological safety. Attendees will gain practical strategies for recognizing early burnout signals, improving communication during stressful situations, and building resilient teams that can sustain both performance and safety.

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PRESENTER

Gina Kesler

President, Impact Employee Solutions; Founding Board Member, National Drug and Alcohol Screening Association

Session: Should I Remove THC From My Drug Test? (And What If I Already Did?)

BIOGRAPHY

Gina Kesler is the Founder and Principal of Impact Employee Solutions (IES), a national employment screening and compliance firm established in 2011 and known for its concierge-level service and hands-on client partnership. With more than 25 years of executive leadership experience, Gina is a recognized expert in DOT-regulated drug and alcohol testing programs, FCRA compliance, and healthcare credentialing. She is a Founding Board Member of the National Drug and Alcohol Screening Association (NDASA) and is deeply committed to employer education, advocacy, and building recovery-supportive workplaces. Under her leadership, IES helps organizations create safe, compliant, and fair employment practices while valuing the human experience behind every screening process.

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

Trends show that employers are dropping THC from the drug test panel to avoid conflicts with state laws. Did you know that NO state law bans testing for THC outright? Maybe you have been considering this move or have already pulled the trigger. Either way, subject matter expert Gina Kesler will share the pros and cons of altering your safety policies with an eye toward efficacy and known best practices for a fair and balanced approach that puts safety FIRST.

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PRESENTER

Phil Murphy, CSP, CIT, CHST

Deputy Director of Compliance, Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health (ADOSH)

Session: Lions, Tigers, and OSHA, Oh My! An Insider's Guide to Inspection Readiness and Resolution

BIOGRAPHY

Serving as Deputy Director of Compliance for the Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health (ADOSH), Phil Murphy plays a key role in guiding occupational safety and health enforcement across Arizona. He is a Certified Safety Professional holding bachelors degrees in Occupational Safety and Health and Public Management, supported by numerous additional credentials. Phil's experience spans inspections in a wide variety of industries statewide. Beyond field enforcement, he has significant experience managing formal and informal settlement conferences and approving settlement agreements, offering valuable insight into compliance strategies and resolution outcomes.

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

From first contact to final resolution, OSHA inspections require strategic management. This presentation, delivered by the ADOSH Deputy Director of Compliance with extensive enforcement experience, reveals what employers should know before the inspector arrives. Participants will be walked through how to prepare for inspections and limit their scope and impact. Attendees will learn how to avoid common missteps, manage inspector interactions, manage documentation requests, and conduct effective opening and closing conferences. The session concludes with practical insight into informal settlement conferences, including strategies to reduce penalties, modify citations, and protect organizational compliance, legal exposure, and reputation.

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PRESENTER

Ryan Bouda

Leadership and Culture Specialist, LEAP Training & Coaching

Session: Courageous Communicators: How to Have the Hard Conversations That Change Everything

BIOGRAPHY

Ryan Bouda is a dynamic speaker, coach and trainer with years of experience taking safety leaders and teams to their next level of greatness. He has spoken to thousands of people on cultivating leadership, building teams and improving communication. Bouda holds a master's degree in leadership development, is certified in Everything DiSC, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Organizational Psychology. His passion is to develop a company's greatest asset: their people. He has worked with companies such as NASA, HCA Healthcare, NSC, VPPPA, and Habitat for Humanity.

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

Safety depends on conversations many people avoid: addressing unsafe behaviors, raising concerns, and challenging the status quo. This session focuses on building the courage and skills required to communicate clearly, respectfully, and effectively in high-stakes situations. Participants will learn how to balance honesty with empathy, reduce defensiveness, and stay grounded when emotions run high. By strengthening courageous communication, leaders can prevent incidents, resolve issues early, and foster a culture where speaking up is expected and supported.

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PRESENTER

Randall Arms

Senior Director, Epicore Biosystems

Session: Dehydrated Minds, Dangerous Work: The Cost of Cognition in the Workplace

BIOGRAPHY

Randall Arms is Senior Director of Commercial at Epicore Biosystems, where he focuses on the practical application of wearable biosensor technology for industrial heat stress and hydration management. His work sits at the intersection of occupational health science and field operations, translating physiological monitoring data into actionable leading indicators for EHS and IH professionals. His entry into this space is personal. His father spent a career working outdoors, suffered multiple heat exhaustion episodes and two heat strokes, and was ultimately diagnosed with stage 3B chronic kidney disease, a direct consequence of years of inadequate hydration education and monitoring.

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

Fatigue is well documented as a driver of occupational incidents, absenteeism, and presenteeism, yet one of its most measurable physiological contributors remains unquantified in most EHS programs: hydration status. A 2 percent body mass fluid deficit impairs attention, psychomotor response, and immediate memory. Thirst does not activate until approximately 1 percent dehydration, meaning cognitive impairment precedes any perceived need to drink. This session examines how organizations can use real-time hydration data as a leading indicator for fatigue risk, cognitive degradation, and operational loss.

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PRESENTER

Ryan Rodriguez, CSP

HSE Senior Team Lead, ISN

Session: SIF Reduction with Energy-Based Safety

BIOGRAPHY

Ryan holds a Bachelor of Science in Radiological Health Engineering and a Master of Public Health in Environmental Health from Texas A&M University. In his current role, Ryan leads a global team of certified safety and environmental professionals in the review and verification of contractors' documentation, including written policies and certificates, and audits contractors' process implementation within ISN's platform, ISNetwork. His team has a keen focus on working with customers on identifying leading indicators to drive progress, along with tracking serious injuries and fatalities (SIFs) as one measure of success in the safety culture at those organizations.

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

Data shows that over the past 10 years, incident rates have declined significantly, while Serious Injury and Fatality rates have remained consistent. Energy-Based Safety, a science-based approach to hazard recognition, prioritization, and direct controls, is aimed at identifying hazards that have the most potential to cause a Serious Injury or Fatality. Many industries have adopted the Energy-Based Safety approach to help drive down serious incidents through improving hazard recognition and identification. Use of the Energy Wheel has helped to improve field hazard identification, in some cases resulting in a 70 percent or greater increase in identified hazards.

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PRESENTER

Alex Gonzalez, CHST, CSM, CTSP

EHS Manager, Haydon Companies

Session: Pre-Task Plan for Your EHS Career: What I Wish I Knew Before Day One

BIOGRAPHY

Alex Gonzalez is a dedicated safety professional with more than 10 years of experience in occupational safety and health and currently serves as the EHS Manager for Haydon Companies, where he has overseen construction safety operations for the past three years. Throughout his career, Alex has been passionate about developing, coaching, and strengthening safety programs while building meaningful relationships with employees in the field. He believes that effective safety leadership starts with presence, engagement, and understanding the realities workers face every day. Driven by his mission to help every employee return home safely, Alex is committed to sharing both his successes and challenges with new and emerging safety professionals.

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

Starting a career in environmental, health, and safety can be both rewarding and challenging, but many of the most important lessons are learned through experience. In this session, Alex Gonzalez, EHS Manager for Haydon Companies, shares practical insights gained during his 10-year safety career, including the victories, mistakes, and hard-earned lessons he wishes he had known before stepping into his first safety role. Using the concept of a pre-task plan, Alex will discuss how new and aspiring safety professionals can prepare for the realities of the profession, build credibility in the field, develop strong relationships with workers and management, and avoid common pitfalls that can derail career growth. Attendees will leave with actionable guidance and a roadmap for building a successful career in EHS.

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