23rd Annual Greater St. Louis Safety & Health Conference

The Premier EHS Event for Professionals in the St. Louis Region

The River City Casino Event Center

777 River City Casino Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63125

Thursday, October 8, 2026

8:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

The Safety Council of Greater St. Louis

OSHA® Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Keynote Speaker:
Chief Jason Hoevelmann

Fire Chief of the Florissant Valley Fire Protection District

Foundational Leadership:
The Science of High-Trust Teams

Exceptional safety performance begins with exceptional leadership. In this dynamic keynote, Chief Jason Hoevelmann explores the science behind building resilient, high-performing teams by moving beyond instinct and leading with intention.

Drawing on research in psychology, neuroscience, and organizational leadership, participants will gain an understanding of **Allostatic Load**—the cumulative physical and mental effects of chronic stress—and how it impacts decision-making, communication, situational awareness, and overall team performance. Attendees will discover practical, evidence-based strategies to recognize and reduce the effects of stress, strengthen psychological safety, and foster trust in high-risk work environments.

Whether you lead a safety department, supervise field operations, or influence workplace culture, this presentation will provide actionable tools to enhance leadership effectiveness, improve team resilience, and create a culture where safety, trust, and performance thrive together.

Jason Hoevelmann is a nationally recognized leader in fire service education, organizational leadership, and public safety innovation. With over three decades of hands-on experience—from frontline firefighter/paramedic to Fire Chief—he brings a rare blend of operational insight, instructional expertise, and strategic vision to every engagement.

As the founder of NEL Consulting & Professional Development, Leadership In Practice, and co-owner of Engine House Training, Jason has empowered thousands of professionals across public, private, and nonprofit sectors with customized leadership development programs grounded in transformational and servant leadership principles. His dynamic presentations, workshops, and keynote addresses challenge audiences to lead with integrity, adapt with purpose, and create cultures of trust and accountability.

Conference Agenda

7:15 a.m. to 7:50 a.m.	Conference Check-In & Registration
7:50 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.	Opening Remarks
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Keynote Speaker *Chief Jason Hoevelmann*
9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.	Exhibitor Viewing
9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	Breakout Session I
10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.	Breakout Session II
11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.	Breakout Session III
12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.	Lunch (Provided) Exhibitor Viewing
1:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Breakout Session IV
2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Final Exhibitor Viewing
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Closing Session

Exhibitor Viewing 9:00 a.m. — 9:30 a.m.
Breakout Session I 9:30 a.m. — 10:15 a.m.

Coaching v Discipline: A Legal Perspective
Julie O'Keefe, Partner, Armstrong Teasdale
This session will address the tension between undocumented coaching, which many employers prefer, and formal disciplinary action, which OSHA expects, when the employer raises an employee misconduct defense. It will also go through best practices when developing disciplinary policies and audit programs.

Confined Space Awareness
Dennis Pivin, Senior Health, Safety and Environmental Technical Advisor, SAK Construction

There are many occupations that require the safe performance of work when confined space is involved. Understanding these hidden dangers, and the critical importance of proper preparedness in confined spaces, are vital to a safe work site. This course will cover the five critical components of confined space awareness.

Drills, Training & Exercises: Why Are They Necessary as Part of Emergency Planning?
Mark Bagby, President, Emergency Planning Solutions, LLC
Emergency planning is not only important but required by OSHA or the Dept of Labor. In order for employees (or students) to know what to do in an emergency, there must be drills, training or exercises to practice performance, roles and expectations. They don't have to be standard and boring. Fun elements, games and prizes can be incorporated into learning.

Learning AI Safely
Michelle Hamilton, AI Adoption and Change Management Practice Lead, AnswerRocket
Artificial Intelligence is transforming the workplace, and safety professionals have an opportunity to harness its potential while understanding its limitations. Discover practical ways AI can support hazard recognition, training, inspections, incident analysis, and decision-making while maintaining the critical role of human judgment. The future of safety isn't just better equipment, it's better insights. Whether you're just beginning to explore AI or looking for new ways to apply it, you'll leave with ideas you can confidently put into practice.

Legacy Leadership, who holds the Key to Unlocking Legacy?
Brandon Anderson, Vice President of Safety, AGC of Missouri
Discover how empathetic, people-first leadership shapes a strong safety culture. Inspired by Brandon Anderson's message, this session explores influencing through trust, supporting mental well-being, communicating authentically, and fostering growth. Learn to lead with purpose, elevate your team, and build a lasting leadership legacy.

DEMO
Engaging and Disengaging Energy
John Waite, Strategic Account Manager, ArcSafe

Working with energized electrical equipment requires careful planning, the right procedures, and a thorough understanding of the risks. Join John as he demonstrates best practices for safely engaging and disengaging energy in electrical power distribution systems. The session will cover charge-close and trip operations, remote switching techniques, and practical methods for reducing arc flash exposure while operating a variety of power distribution equipment.

Breakout Session I 9:30 a.m. — 10:15 a.m. CONTINUED

DEMO

Fire Extinguisher Training

Justin Spraul, Commercial Building Inspector and Fire Investigator, Fenton Fire Protection District

Led by John, participants will practice extinguishing a simulated fire while reviewing the fundamentals of fire extinguisher safety, including selecting the correct extinguisher, understanding fire classifications, and technique. You'll also learn when it is appropriate to fight a fire—and, more importantly, when it is best to evacuate.

DEMO

Safe at Heights: Essential Fall Protection ABCs with Live Demo

Bo Solari, Sales Consultant, Midwestern Safety Equipment

Matt Henderson, Regional Sales Manager, FallTech

Falls are a leading cause of workplace injuries and fatalities, making fall protection a critical aspect of any safety program. This session will introduce the ABCs of fall protection, offering essential insights into Anchor points, Body support, and Connecting devices. Attendees will learn key principles for selecting, inspecting, and using fall protection equipment. The session includes a live drop-truck demonstration, providing a hands-on experience that shows workers what to expect and how to respond in fall scenarios.

Breakout Session II 10:30 a.m.– 11:15 a.m.

Creating Safe Workspaces: Confronting Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Harassment

Kasey G. Kaiser, Executive Director, Crime Victim Center

Mark Kurkowski, Owner Kurkowski, Consulting and Training

Survivors lose nearly 8 million paid workdays per year due to DV, costing U.S. businesses approximately $1.8 billion annually in lost productivity. 94% of corporate and security directors at companies nationwide rank domestic violence as a high-security concern. This session will help participants navigate the complexities of when domestic violence, stalking, and harassment enters the workplace, thus helping businesses create safer work environments.

Investigation Fails: What NOT To Do After A Work Accident

J. Bradley Young, Partner, Harris Young Kayser

Brad will examine what not to do after a work accident and provide tips on how to properly investigate a work injury. Brad's presentation will offer insight into how to ensure a quality investigation of a work accident.

Excavation Safety Fundamentals

AJ Gadjosik, Senior Loss Control Representative, Acuity Insurance

Excavation and trenching remain among the most hazardous construction activities. This introductory session reviews OSHA requirements, common hazards, soil classification basics, protective systems, and the responsibilities of employers and workers. Whether you're new to excavation safety or looking for a refresher, you'll leave with practical knowledge to help identify risks and prevent cave-ins before work begins.

Lockout/Tagout: Managing Hazardous Energy Safely

Mike Toledo, Safety, Guarantee Electrical

Russell Hinds, President/CEO, Mid-America Safety & Health

Lockout/tagout is a critical safeguard against injuries caused by hazardous energy. This session explores current best practices for controlling electrical and other hazardous energy sources, with an emphasis on planning, verification, and program effectiveness. Learn practical strategies for strengthening your LOTO program, addressing common compliance challenges, and protecting workers during maintenance and servicing activities.

Breakout Session II 10:30 a.m. — 11:15 a.m. CONTINUED

Machine Guarding
Larry Berry, Principal, Dangergone
Machine Guarding is one of OSHA's top 10 most frequently cited standards. Inadequate machine guarding exposes workers to crushing, severe cuts and amputations. Join Larry as he demonstrates proper and adequate machine guarding. Larry will also discuss what machine guarding is OSHA compliant.

DEMO:
Confined Space Entry
Tony Coco, Owner, Archview Services
Dennis Pivin, Senior Health, Safety and Environmental Technical Advisor, SAK Construction
Take confined space safety beyond the classroom with this interactive, hands-on training experience. Participants will have the opportunity to practice proper confined space entry procedures using a state-of-the-art confined space training trailer designed to simulate real-world conditions.This practical session reinforces essential skills, including hazard recognition, atmospheric monitoring, entry procedures, communication, and emergency preparedness in a safe, controlled environment.

Maximize your learning! Attend the **Confined Space** classroom session in **Session I**, then put those concepts into practice during this hands-on workshop. Participants who complete **both sessions** will earn **additional Continuing Education Units (CEUs)** while gaining valuable experience that can be

Breakout Session III 11:30 a.m. — 12:15 p.m.

OSHA Update: An emphasis on Current Trends
Billie A. Kizer, Regional Administrator, OSHA—Kansas City,MO
Stay informed on the latest OSHA initiatives, enforcement trends, and regulatory updates impacting employers in our region. This session will highlight recent inspection activity, common citations, emerging issues, and practical insights to help organizations remain compliant and proactive.

Lunch 12:15 p.m. — 1:15 p.m. OSHA Overview | Exhibitor Viewing | Demo Visit

Breakout Session IV: 1:15 p.m. — 2:00 p.m.

How to Grow a Safety Manager: A Panel Discussion
Jen Horstmann, Director, Safety, Schnuck Markets, Inc.
Matt Turkovic, HSE Technician, Bayer
Ryan Wehrle, Corporate Safety Manager, Tarlton Corporation
Joe Wickenhauser, Manager SHE, Wieland North America, Inc.
There is no single path to becoming an effective safety leader. In this interactive panel discussion, industry professionals will share three distinct approaches to developing safety managers: mentoring individuals with traditional safety education, identifying and growing talent organically within the organization, and helping employees transition into safety leadership from other operational roles. Panelists will discuss how they recognize potential, develop critical skills, and create successful pathways that strengthen both their people and their safety culture.

Rethinking Safety Inspection: Lessons from the Playground
Brad Ziegler, Environmental Health & Safety Manager, St. Louis Community College
Playgrounds are among the most rigorously evaluated public environments when it comes to hazard recognition, user behavior, and injury prevention. Inspectors are trained to evaluate movement, fall zones, entrapment hazards, surfacing conditions, maintenance issues, and foreseeable misuse—all within dynamic, uncontrolled environments.

This session draws a direct parallel between playground safety inspections and workplace inspections across facilities, laboratories, manufacturing environments, and campuses. By applying the same observational techniques used in playground inspections, safety professionals can improve their ability to identify hazards that are often missed in traditional checklist-based inspections.
Attendees will gain a practical, field-ready framework for improving inspection effectiveness by focusing on movement, interaction, human behavior, and how conditions change over time. This session offers a fresh, highly visual approach that is immediately applicable across industries.

The Components of a Resilient Safety Culture: From Theory to Practice
Shae Birkey, Safety Leadership Adviser, Caterpillar, Inc.
Trey Patterson, Central Region Safety Director, McCarthy
Safety culture exists whether an organization proactively manages it or not. Over the past 50 years, Caterpillar Safety Services has worked with hundreds of organizations striving to build the strongest safety culture possible to keep their people safe. What we've learned is that the key to success and sustainability is resilience. In this presentation you will learn about the four interdependent components that are necessary to achieve a resilient safety culture: a system with appropriate controls and clear expectations, a shared mindset that meets challenges with care and curiosity, consistent leadership behaviors that positively influence others, and a fully engaged organization focused on continuous improvement to build ownership.

Fleet Safety: A Panel Discussion
Moderator: AJ Gajdosik, *Acuity*
Scott Honer, Senior Loss Representative, One Digital Insurance
David Callies, *Safety & Technology Director, Kelpe Contracting, Inc.*
Eric Thiessen, *DOT and Compliance Manager, Emery, Sapp and Sons*

Join a panel of industry professionals as they explore innovative technologies and proven strategies for improving fleet and driver safety. From telematics to training, discover how organizations are enhancing safety, reducing risk, and protecting their drivers on the road.

Breakout Session IV: 1:15 p.m. — 2:00 p.m. CONTINUED

Workers' Compensation & Return-to-Work: From Injury to Recovery
Sheila Schmidt, CSP, ARM, Safety and Risk Services Regional Manager, MEM
Navigating a workplace injury can be complex for both employers and employees. This session provides an overview of the workers' compensation process, from reporting an injury and managing claims to developing an effective return-to-work program. Learn best practices for supporting injured employees, reducing lost work time, and fostering a safe, successful transition back to the workplace.

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Last Call for Exhibitor Viewing: 2:00 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
Closing Session: 2:30 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.

Turning Up the Heat: Today's Hottest Safety Challenges
Moderator: Domini Montgomery, Saint Louis Zoo
Insurance: Dan Bembower, Risk Control Consultant, USI Insurance Services
Legal: Chris Archer, Partner Archer & Lassa LLC
OSHA: Bill McDonald, Area Director, OSHA—St. Louis, MO
Safety Manufacturing: Jill Guetersloh, EHS Compliance Manager, Haleon
Safety: Todd Cook, Vice President of Risk & Safety, Guarantee Electrical Company
Today's safety professionals are navigating an ever-changing landscape of regulations, emerging risks, workforce challenges, and evolving technologies. This interactive panel brings together experienced safety leaders to tackle the industry's hottest topics, with discussion driven by questions submitted by attendees before the conference (a survey will be sent) and open discussion during the session.

Thank You For Attending
Certificates with CEU's listed will be EMAILED TO YOU
after the CONFERENCE

October 8, 2026 Conference Registration

Early Bird $225.00 (through September 22nd)
Registration: $250.00
Conference Walk-in Registration: $275.00

Cancellation Policy: A full refund, less a $50 processing fee per registration, will be granted if notification is received prior to October 1st. All cancellations made after October 1st are subject to full conference fees. Substitutions are honored at any time.

Company Name _____

Name _____

Job Title _____ **Type of Business** _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ **Cell Phone** _____

Email _____ **Special Accommodations:** _____

To ensure space availability, Please select **one** topic for **each** session for each attendee.

Session I:

___ Coaching v Discipline
___ Confined Space Awareness
___ Emergency Planning
___ Learning AI Safely
___ Legacy Leadership
___ Demo: Engaging & Disengaging Energy
___ Demo: Fire Extinguisher Training
___ Demo: Fall Protection

Session II:

___ Creating Safe Workspaces
___ Excavations
___ Investigation Fails
___ Machine Guarding
___ Demo: Confined Space Entry

Session IV:

___ Fleet Safety
___ How to Grow A Safety Manager
___ Rethinking Safety Inspections
___ Components of a Resilient Safety Culture
___ Workers' Compensation
___ Demo: Confined Space Trailer Simulator
___ Demo: Engaging & Disengaging Energy

Payment Options

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(Same PO can be used for multiple registrants)

___CALL 314-621-9200 to pay over the phone via credit card.

(We will send a paid receipt)

OR complete the online registration and pay online at:

http://www.stlsafety.org/conference-registration

OR FOR MORE INFORMATION >>>

The Safety Council of Greater St. Louis

THE 23RD ANNUAL GREATER ST. LOUIS SAFETY & HEALTH CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026

Unemployed Environmental Safety and Health Professionals may attend the conference at no charge.

Safety and Health College Students may attend the conference at no charge.

Please call (314) 621-9200 for details.

Thank You!

The Safety Council of Greater St. Louis

OSHA®
Occupational Safety and Health Administration