Welcome to the 18th Annual Safety Directors’ Conference

DAY 1 TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

12:00 PM - 12:15 PM Welcome Keynote

Come join TEAM MCAA next January for world class safety and health education at MCAA’s 18th Annual Safety Directors’ Conference. The conference, which will be presented online January 19–20, 2021, kicks off with an update from MCAA President, Brian Helm, and includes 13 educational sessions with three keynote presentations.

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM Thriving While Under Pressure with Dr. Dan Diamond

Occupational safety and health professionals are frequently required to perform well in high pressure situations when doing so matters most. As the director of the medical triage unit at the New Orleans convention center after hurricane Katrina, and on first response teams in Haiti, the Philippines, Honduras, and many other places around the world, Dr. Diamond endured many extremely high-pressure experiences resulting in incredibly useful stories for teaching individuals how to thrive well when under extreme pressure. In this presentation he will share with us several of those stories and his recommendations to us for getting even better than we already are at thriving while under pressure.

Dr. Dan Diamond came back from the trenches of Katrina with a burning question: “How is it that some people become unstoppable?” What he has discovered drives motivation, increases engagement and empowers corporations from the inside out. Dr. Diamond has a passion for equipping people to perform under pressure. He founded and serves as the Director of the Nation’s first state-affiliated medical disaster response team and he has responded to a variety of international disasters.

1:20 PM - 2:20 PM Topic-Specific Breakout Sessions:

NFPA 70E Refresher with Changes to NFPA 70E for 2021 – Jon Wallace

NFPA 70E (Electrical Safety in the workplace) is on a three-year revision cycle. The most current version, which will become available in the fall of 2020, is NFPA 70E-2021. This presentation is a combination NFPA 70E refresher covering arc flash and electrical shock hazards affecting mechanical service technicians, appropriate protective measures for work on equipment pushing 480 volts or less, and changes to the standard for 2021 that affect work on equipment pushing 480 volts or less.

W. Jon Wallace, CSP, MBA is the President of Workplace Safety – a member of Workplace Group. Jon is a Certified Safety Professional with over three decades occupational safety experience and is nationally recognized in the area of occupational safety. His industrial experience includes Mobil Oil and Hercules. Jon is Past-President of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP).

The Latest in Tool Safety & Knowledge Capturing/Learning Technology – Jon Howland

Learn more about a broad range of safety solutions for the mechanical construction and service industry related to both power and hand tools; as well as insight into an emerging technology designed to capture and facilitate the transfer of knowledge from the journeyperson to the apprentice.

Jon Howland serves as the Director of Marketing for the Industrial and Commercial Division of the North America Commercial Team within Stanley Black & Decker’s Global Tools & Storage Division. In his current role, Jon’s main charge is developing and executing a relevant approach for the division’s commercial implementation of its Enterprise Solutions Team.
Legionella in Mechanical & Plumbing Service Applications – Paul Allen

With buildings across the nation shut down due to the pandemic Legionella has once again reared its ugly head. In this presentation you'll learn about the infectious disease, where mechanical service and plumbing service technicians are most likely to encounter it, how they can identify the potential hazard, how they can protect themselves from exposure, mechanical system treatment options, and the ramifications of the various treatment options.

Paul Allen is a Risk Control Consulting Director for Industrial Hygiene at CNA. Paul has over 30 years of safety and risk control experience having held positions in insurance, manufacturing, and construction. He is a professional member of the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) and a member of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) where he serves on both the Respiratory Protection Committee (PCE) and The Protective Clothing and Equipment Committee.

2:30 PM - 3:15 PM
Exhibit Visits

3:15 PM - 4:15 PM
Topic-Specific Breakout Sessions:
Initiating Positive Safety Culture Change – Kristin Danner

Even the thought of changing an organization’s culture can be daunting. With some determination, courage, and willingness to take the first step, you can experience what happens when a well-established “old school” culture begins to shift. This session will include some practical approaches to culture change combined with stories from the City of Kansas City, Missouri’s efforts.

Kristin has worked for the City of Kansas City, Missouri for more than 22 years in various management capacities and for the last 8 years in the corporate safety/risk management division working to create a culture of care throughout the 1,800+ employees the division supports for employee safety. Kristin has led campaign efforts utilizing a head and heart approach to change habits, oversees a city-wide video telematics program to reduce risky driving and leads a team dedicated to making continuous advancements for safety, workers’ compensation and risk management.

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4:20 PM - 5:20 PM
Normalization of Deviance in Safety with Astronaut Mike Mullane

Countdown to Safety, by Astronaut Mike Mullane, will use the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster to develop the causes and dangers of ‘Normalization of Deviance’, defined as the accumulation of risk through successive short-cutting of safety best-practices. It was this exact process, the normalization of repeated acceptance of a known critical problem with the solid-rocket boosters, which resulted in the loss of Challenger. Normalization of deviance is a threat to all individuals operating in hazardous work environments, including mechanical contractors. From the history of the Challenger disaster, Mullane will derive lessons for mechanical contracting tradespeople and their supervisors to use as protection from being victimized by Normalization of Deviance.

Upon his graduation from West Point in 1967, Colonel Mullane was commissioned in the United States Air Force. As a Weapon Systems Operator aboard Phantom aircraft, he completed 134 combat missions in Vietnam. Mullane was selected as a Mission Specialist in 1978 in the first group of Space Shuttle Astronauts. He completed three space missions aboard the Shuttles “Discovery” and “Atlantis” before retiring from NASA and the Air Force in 1990. Mullane is the author of several books, including his uniquely entertaining memoir, Riding Rockets, The Outrageous Tales of a Space Shuttle Astronaut.
12:00 PM - 12:10 PM
Announcement of 2020 Milwaukee Tool Safety Professional of the Year

MCAA Safety and Health Committee member and National Manager for Health and Safety for Milwaukee Tool Raffi Elchemmas will announce the winner of the 2020 MILWAUKEE TOOL/MCAA Safety Professional of the Year award. The award is presented annually to a mechanical industry safety and health professional who has led his or her company to achieving an exceptionally high degree of safety excellence.

12:10 PM - 1:10 PM
Topic-Specific Breakout Sessions:
Today’s Refrigerants Hazards & Appropriate Protective Measures – Rich Benkowski

This presentation will highlight the hazards presented by today’s refrigerants that are used in the mechanical systems that are installed and serviced by our technicians. They include the more typical refrigerants as well as ammonia, propane, and CO2 based refrigerants. You will learn about the hazards and the most appropriate protective measures for working safely with them. You will also be introduced to some of the newer refrigerants being used in the United States today, and their accompanying hazards and appropriate protective measures.

Rich started his United Association (UA) career in Monaca, PA in 1976. Over the years, he has served as a UA instructor in various capacities, teaching a wide range of subjects relevant to the plumbing and mechanical contracting industries. He currently works for the UA Department of Education as a Training Specialist conducting research and curriculum development with primary responsibilities in Water Quality Management, Sustainable Technology, Energy Efficiency and HVACR Systems.

Reducing the Skills Gap with Microlearning and Technology – Frantz Belot

The gap between the skills employees have and the skills needed in the global marketplace is costing the US about $60B/year. In industries where employees are always on the go, companies need to combine adult learning principles, microlearning, and technology to close the skills gap and impact all aspects of their business.

Frantz Belot, Ph.D., is co-founder of Tyfoom, a mobile-first platform that documents and improves safety, communication, productivity and training. From 2011 to 2015, he worked with Imagine Learning, which provides a complete suite of adaptive digital curriculum and assessment solutions for PreK-8 in language development. Dr. Belot obtained his Ph.D. from BYU in educational leadership with an emphasis in organizational behavior. His educational penchant permeates all aspects of his life. He’s passionate about helping people access education and training so they can decrease skill gaps and positively impact lives, businesses and communities for good.

Asbestos Awareness Resurgence Need for Mechanical Industry – Jim Harrity

Learn about the recent surge in older building renovations that has generated new asbestos exposures to unsuspecting mechanical industry workers. This presentation will re-introduce the hazard, reveal the recent exposures, suggest why so many workers are unaware of the hazard, and convey what needs to be done about it to keep our workers safe from it.

Jim earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Resource Management from the Pennsylvania State University and began his career at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard where he completed a Ship Fitter apprenticeship and became a journeyman. Jim started with OSHA in 2002 as an Assistant Area Director in the Philadelphia Area Office where he has managed both Safety and Health Compliance Teams. He was assigned as the Regional Process Safety Manager and continued with enforcement support in the Philadelphia Area OSHA Office. In 2014 Jim was assigned as the Compliance Assistance Specialist supporting outreach and compliance assistance efforts in the Philadelphia Area Office and Wilmington, Delaware Area Office.

1:15 PM - 2:00 PM
Exhibit Visits
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
**Topic-Specific Breakout Sessions:**

**Basis of Complacency: Implications for Improving Safety Performance – Sharon Lipinski**

Cutting-edge neuroscience research suggests that complacency is rooted in the brain structures that are activated by the brain while it is performing its activities. This presentation explores our basic brain design that results in the biological basis for complacency. Understanding the subject will help you solve the problem of jobsite safety and health complacency among your workers.

Sharon Lipinski is an experienced instructor and author. She has delivered hundreds of hours of instruction to audiences around the country. In addition, she holds a gamification for training certification as a reflection of her commitment to provide unique and engaging experiences that result in measurable behavior change for her clients.

**Where the Opioid Crisis Meets Reasonable Suspicion – Adele Abrams**

Former occupational safety and health professional and long-time occupational safety and health attorney Adele Abrams will lead us through the issues involving workers under the influence of opioids and reasonable suspicion of use, such as the issues involving drug testing, ADA requirements, EEOC guidance, job disqualification, and reasonable accommodation.

Adele is a nationally recognized expert on mine and occupational safety and health issues. She provides training on regulatory compliance and best practices to groups including the National Safety Council, the American Society of Safety Professionals, and a variety of construction, manufacturing and mining associations and private companies. Adele is an attorney, Certified Mine Safety Professional and trainer who is president of the Law Office of Adele L. Abrams P.C. in Beltsville, MD, Charleston, WV, and Denver, CO, a multi-attorney firm focusing on representing employers in OSHA/MSHA matters and employment law nationwide.

3:05 PM - 4:05 PM  
**Safe 4 the Right Reasons with Dale Lesinski**

A simple yet sophisticated safety message that eliminates accidents and injuries by getting employees to practice safe behaviors because they WANT to, not because they HAVE to. This presentation delivers what Safety Professionals have been trying to instill in their employees forever – valuing their own safety and willingly watch out for each other. By appealing to our Human Nature, “Safe 4 the Right Reasons” is personal, sustainable and proven with over a decade of success.

Dale Lesinski is the Vice President of DiVal Safety. DiVal is an International leader in safety supplies & training. Dale has earned the distinction of a master communicator. Throughout his 30 years of safety experience, he has trained at over 1500 manufacturing plants and job sites that include virtually every aspect of industry, construction, municipality and utility. He has turned his focus to improving safety cultures through human behaviors.

4:05 PM - 4:15 PM  
**Conference Conclusion**