

| Session # | Time | Speaker Name | Title | Description | Speaker Bio |
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| 101 | 8:30-10:00 | Todd Hirsch | Spiders in Space, How Canadians are Adapting to the New Global Economy | <p>In 2011, NASA flew spiders to the International Space Station to see if they could still spin webs in zero gravity. The surprising result? The spiders adapted; they built new webs, with new shapes and structures. And they did so without changing what they were, or what they were capable of.</p> <p>Today, Canadians face a similar predicament. Global supply chains have altered traditional manufacturing and agribusiness. The selling price of natural resources has sunk. New services have disrupted legacy corporations, and layoffs and bankruptcy are facts of life. According to Todd Hirsch, Chief Economist of ATB Financial, Canadians are faced with sudden and very unwanted change—but like the spiders, we learn new and resilient ways to adapt.</p> <p>In this keynote, based on his upcoming book <i>Spiders in Space</i> (April 20, 2017), Hirsch explores how Canadians are adjusting to the new global realities of the 21st century. Using examples drawn from multiple industries, and by profiling successful community leaders, educators, entrepreneurs, athletes, and more, he outlines the inspirational traits and mindsets needed to stay competitive. Far from a dire warning, this talk is an optimistic celebration of the flexible mindsets required for the new economy. We can—and will—learn to spin new webs; and Todd Hirsch is here to show us how.</p> | <p>ATB Financial’s Chief Economist TODD HIRSCH is one of the country’s most sought-after speakers on the economy, with over two decades of experience as an economist, professor, and commentator. In clear-eyed, energetic talks, he demystifies wealth and the economy and answers vital questions: what’s the state of Canada’s economy, how does it impact us individually, and what’s in store for the future?</p> <p>Todd Hirsch is ATB Financial’s Chief Economist and the co-author of <i>The Boiling Frog Dilemma: Saving Canada from Economic Decline</i>. He provides economic commentary for CBC, CTV, and the BBC, among others, and is a regular columnist for <i>The Globe and Mail</i>. He was named one of Alberta’s 50 Most Influential People by <i>Alberta Venture</i>. His latest project is <i>Spiders in Space: Successfully Adapting to Unwanted Change</i>: a book co-written with Rob Roach that draws on interviews with successful adapters in business, economics, and design to answer the question: what do you do when you lose your gravity?</p> <p>For over 20 years, Hirsch has worked as an economist at companies including Canadian Pacific Railway, the Canada West Foundation and the Bank of Canada. For almost a decade, he taught economics at the University of Calgary. Hirsch holds a BA Honours in Economics from the University of Alberta and an MA in Economics from the University of Calgary. A popular speaker, Hirsch presents to over 250 groups a year in Alberta, across Canada, and internationally. He</p> |

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| | | | | | currently serves on the University of Calgary Board of Governors and is the chair of the Calgary Arts Academy. He recently received the U of A's Alumni Honour Award, and the federal government's Diamond Jubilee Medal. |
| 102 | 10:30-12:00 | TBC | Labour Code & Impact on the Workplace | TBC | TBC |
| 103 | 1:00-2:00 | Becky Wheat-Bain | Discomfort is a Form of Distraction. A Case Study with Motorcycle Riders | In a large and growing world-wide motorcycle retail market, women are the fastest growing segment. Many manufacturers are selling to women, but very few if any are measuring, designing, and fabricating equipment, clothing, or even motorcycles that fit them. This directly contributes to, along with other factors, discouraging women from becoming enduring riders and mitigates the growth of that segment as well as being uncomfortable while riding. This discomfort can be directly related to the overall safety of the rider by relating it to a form of distraction. This case study is an application of this theory to the design of motorcycle seats for women. | Becky Wheat-Bain is a Human Factors Engineer and usability consultant for B. Systematic Ltd. Becky applies her BSc. Kin and MSc. Eng with her 20+ years of evaluation and design experience to a variety of industry projects: military, emergency response, oil and gas, automotive, and athletic devices. She is curious and tenacious who naturally challenges the concept of "good enough". Her passion is putting the user in the centre of the design process such that the users are delighted and safe. |
| 104 | 1:00-2:00 | Dr. Charl Els | Effectiveness of Random Drug and Alcohol Screening as an Intervention for Occupational Injury Prevention | The use of alcohol and other drugs represents a significant and growing problem in the workforce, with 5%–20% of workers at risk of addiction. The profile of substance use is changing in Alberta, especially as it pertains to analgesics (narcotics, opioids), in particular fentanyl, and the dramatic increase in the numbers of authorizations for medical marijuana. It is probable that occupational risk will occur following the consumption of substances at work, or within close temporal proximity of work. To date, the exploration of the link between the use of alcohol or other drugs (AOD) and measures to improve workplace injury prevention has been insufficient. Random AOD testing, despite the observed expansion, has not been adequately evaluated. More research to evaluate the effectiveness of random workplace drug testing is therefore urgently needed. Dr. Straube and his team will conduct a systematic review of the world literature on this topic. This will inform policy and practice as it relates to the adoption of workplace random AOD testing. As part of an overall drug-free workplace policy, | Dr. Charl Els is a psychiatrist, addiction specialist, and medical review officer. He serves on the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine's Guideline Committee and regularly conducts fitness-for-duty assessments on employees in a safety sensitive and decision-critical positions. Els also serves on the University of Alberta's Health Research Ethics Board as well as on the advisory board for Physicians Against Forced Organ Harvesting. He teaches in the field of Occupational and Addiction Psychiatry, and his current research is funded by the Government of Alberta as well as WCB Alberta, and Health Canada in the past. Els has authored several publications in peer-reviewed journals and he is the first editor of a Health Canada-funded textbook on tobacco control. |

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| | | | | <p>this may contribute to increased safety in Alberta workplaces in the face of a changing substance use profile in Alberta and Canada.</p> | |
| 105 | 1:00-2:00 | Kim Titchener | <p>Creating a Bear Safety Culture with Industry</p> | <p>Why is bear safety important?</p> <p>Risk levels are increasing with more people working in areas where wildlife live, attack rates continue to escalate and the number of bears and other wildlife being destroyed for interactions continue to rise.</p> <p>If you are in charge of safety, it is on you to determine risk, manage for it and ensure staff is provided with the training, protocols and equipment to safeguard their safety and reduce their impacts on bear and other wildlife populations.</p> <p>Join Kim Titchener, owner of Bear Safety & More to learn how you can create a bear safety culture in your work force, what companies in multiply industries are doing to improve safety in these environments and some hairy tales from the field of working in human-wildlife conflict in Alberta's wild spaces.</p> | <p>Kim Titchener, has worked on wildlife conflict reduction programs with multiple government agencies, communities and industry for 14 years. With increasing pressures on companies working in bear country to upgrade bear and wildlife management and training programs, Kim has expanded her focus to include a greater spread of sectors and industries in Canada and the U.S. She specializes in training staff, updating policy documents and creating wildlife safety communication strategies.</p> <p>Kim is an engaging educator and professional speaker who studied environmental education, resource management and leadership at Lakehead University. She attained a Bachelor of Education (Honours), a Bachelor of Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism (Leadership Studies), and a Bachelor of Arts (History). Kim gained her practical expertise from field experience in Banff National Park, monitoring bear activity, performing bear aversion and delivering public education on bear safety. She has run successful community education programs on human-wildlife safety for nearly a decade, spearheading WildSmart within the Bow Valley, a highly successful organization that is now being widely replicated.</p> <p>Kim has been commissioned for input by communities and organizations across North America, and in 2014 was awarded the SHIFT Sustainability Award for Nature – international recognition for her work in wildlife conservation. She continues to expand her professional knowledge through ongoing education, speaking and conference engagements.</p> |

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| 106 | 2:30-3:30 | Corinne Paul & Angela Wheeler | TDG and Chemical Handling | <p>Transportation of dangerous goods (TDG) is a key component in many industries, and the recent and upcoming Transport Canada changes can adversely affect your business. As Industrial hygienists and occupational health specialists we regularly deal with chemicals and chemical handling. Transportation of dangerous goods works hand in hand with any chemical handling program. By melding of these two programs you allow for better understanding and risk management within both of these fields. This short session will focus on the recent issues and changes from Transport Canada, the overlapping elements/risks in both TDG and chemical handling programs as well as discuss tools that can help you move forward in managing these risks.</p> | <p>Corinne Paul is the Chemical Handling & Senior TDG Specialist at Husky Energy. She is a Certified Registered Safety Professional (CRSP) and Certified Risk Manager (CRM) with over 15 year’s health and safety experience and has been on the AIHA Alberta board for over 6 years. Corinne entered the Health & Safety field through occupational health and hygiene in the diamond mining industry. She has a nine year old son who keeps her busy with after school programs, projects, copious amounts of Legos and when they can – they are travelling the world.</p> <p>Angela Wheeler’s 17-year career as an occupational hygienist with a background in chemistry and biochemistry has led to building chemical handling and TDG programs as well. She is currently a Senior Advisor of Transportation Health & Safety for Cenovus Energy. Her claim to 15-minutes of fame is having created the only safety data sheet available for Bakken Crude at the time of the Lac Megantic rail disaster, according to Transport Canada investigators and Wikipedia. She’s grateful to be part of a profession that offers diversity and relevance to our ever-changing times.</p> |
| 107 | 2:30-3:30 | Ian Hooper | Partnerships Update | <p>Partnerships In Injury Reduction is a great example of how government, labor and industry can work together to improve occupational health and safety for Albertans. We are a non-regulatory, province wide prevention program sponsored co-operatively by government, labor, and industry. Together we encourage and assist employers with the implementation of health and safety management systems at their work sites. Partnerships use a strategic approach to program development in an effort to meet the emerging needs of industry and government. Through this process, and consultation with stakeholders, feedback has been provided toward program direction. This session will provide an update of current and new initiatives.</p> | <p>Ian Hooper is the Director of Partnerships in Injury Reduction (Partnerships) of Alberta Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour. Prior to undertaking the role of Director, Ian was a Partnerships Consultant and worked with Certifying Partners in the areas of quality assurance and the development of program standards. Ian has been with Partnerships for almost 14 years. Prior to joining Partnerships, Ian worked with the Workers’ Compensation Board of Alberta (WCB) for over 17 years with the Employer Services Division, in</p> |

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| | | | | | <p>various supervisory and professional roles, including auditor and account manager.</p> <p>Ian holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree and an Occupational Health and Safety Certificate, both from the University of Alberta.</p> |
| 108 | 2:30-3:30 | Jan Chappel & Anne-Marie Besliu | It's Age Related: Challenges & Solutions | <p>Occupational health & safety research shows us that both physical and mental changes occur as people age. Explore in this session how these age related changes affect workers and what workers will need from a health and safety prospective. Discover how your organization can help aging workers or the work environment adapt effectively to tasks that involve sitting, standing, performing computer work, or carrying heavy loads. We will also explore cognitive and productivity changes and the impact on education and training. Learn how you can help both the workplace and workers by implementing often simple workplace solutions.</p> | <p>Jan Chappel is a Senior Technical Specialist with the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS). She brings to the CCOHS team expertise in health, occupational hygiene, and education. Jan works as the project lead for the Centre’s online fact sheets (OSH Answers) and publications. Jan also works on a variety of projects including creating web tools, apps, and online portals; authoring e-learning courses; and developing occupational health and safety educational material for teachers in Ontario and Costa Rica. She is also an integral member of CCOHS’ Mental Health @ Work Team, working to help steer the Centre in the adoption of the Psychological Health and Safety Standard.</p> <p>Jan received a Masters of Health Science degree in Occupational Hygiene from the University of Toronto, and a Honours Bachelor degree in Health Studies from the University of Waterloo.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Besliu is a Technical Specialist, Training and Education, at the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS). She brings to the CCOHS team, expertise in chemical technology, workplace health and safety, and training and education.</p> <p>Since joining CCOHS in 2013, Anne-Marie has been providing guidance on health and safety legislation and best practices to employers and employees from various work fields.</p> |

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| | | | | | <p>Anne-Marie researches health and safety topics, writes and reviews educational fact sheets and e-courses, answers health and safety-related inquiries from the public, and is a member of CCOHS CHEMINFO database development team. She has participated in the development of WHMIS-specific guidelines and e-learning tools, and is part of the Center’s team of information specialists who respond to WHMIS 2015 inquiries.</p> <p>Anne-Marie received her Honours B.Sc. degree in Chemical Engineering from the Polytechnic Institute of Bucharest, Romania, and a Post Graduate Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety from Ryerson University.</p> |
| 109 | 3:40-4:40 | WCB | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| 110 | 3:40-4:40 | AMTA | What does the term “Safety Officer” mean to you? Panel discussion | According to Section 40(2) of Alberta Commercial Vehicle Certificate and Insurance Regulation, every National Safety Code carrier in Alberta is required to designate a safety officer responsible for maintaining and implementing a safety program and to ensure compliance with safety laws. The AMTA is currently working in partnership with the Government of Alberta to develop a Certified Transportation Safety Professional (CTSP) program. Specifically, the CTSP certification will provide the tools for safety professionals to identify, interpret, and successfully implement programs to ensure compliance with transportation regulations. This panel discussion will include Government representatives, industry experts and others, to discuss the growing need for an educational program for the transportation industry. The Alberta Motor Transport Association has recognized a need for this program and looks forward to an engaging discussion. | TBC |
| 111 | 3:40-4:40 | Astrid Mitchell & Christie Lavan | Leading Change: Domestic Violence & Your Workplace | <p>Every year, several thousand Albertans will be unsafe in workplaces because of violent personal relationships.</p> <p>Alberta businesses have suffered huge losses due to domestic violence and the legislation is changing: organizations are being held accountable when domestic violence ends tragically.</p> | <p>Astrid Mitchell is an Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters, Domestic Violence and the Work Place Consultant as well as a Facilitator in the ACWS’ Leading Change: Inspired Communities Program. She is from Drayton Valley and works as an Occupational Health and Safety Consultant, primarily in the transportation</p> |

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| | | | | <p>The presentation involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding what domestic violence is and how it is affecting work sites today - Reviewing current occupational health and safety legislation and; - Understanding its application to domestic violence - Recognize the signs of both the abused and the abuser - Motivating participants to develop a deeper understanding of how domestic violence impacts the workplace and how to take a leadership role in prevention | <p>industry. She has a diploma with distinction in Occupational Health and Safety from the University of Alberta Faculty of Extension and is an Alberta Motor Transport Association internal auditor. Astrid is a passionate advocate for work place health and safety and believes involving employers in the fight against domestic violence will truly effect change.</p> <p>Christie Lavan has worked in a wide array of sectors bringing a diversity of experience to her role as Leading Change Program Developer. She trainer with the Canadian Military as a Radio Operator in the Communications Reserve, organized tape and called show timings in live television newsrooms, researched, wrote and produced dramatic and documentary television and film content in the independent television industry and most recently, served as a communications generalist at Alberta Health Services, and later at the Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters for several years. She was the first Canadian to participate in Praxis International’s Advocacy Learning Centre, is passionate about engaging in dialog and leveraging art and media for social change. Most importantly, Christie is also a mom and partner.</p> |
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| 201 | 8:30-10:00 | Patrick Delaney | Marijuana in the Workplace | TBC | TBC |
| 202 | 10:30-11:30 | Glyn Jones | The Need for Transformational Leadership in Uncertain Times | <p>In this time of economic adversity, safety leadership needs a paradigm change. During the boom, we were able to survive on a transactional approach to work and safety leadership as rapid paced activity abounded. However, with work slowing down and morale lowering, the focus on compliance to established routines and procedures is not enough. We need a leadership style that takes relationships into account and builds trust; we need transformational leadership. Enacted with authenticity, transformational leadership enhances the motivation, morale, and performance of followers through a variety of mechanisms. These include connecting the follower's sense of identity and self to the mission and the collective identity of the organization; being a role model for followers that inspires them; challenging followers to take greater ownership for their work; and understanding the strengths and weaknesses of followers so the leader can align followers with tasks that optimize their performance.</p> <p>In this session the idea of transformational leadership distinct from transactional and other leadership styles will be explored in detail. A strategy for change will be offered so that all participants can create a personal action plan for shifting their focus towards a more transformation leadership style.</p> | <p>Glyn Jones is an occupational health and safety consultant with 32 years of experience. Mr. Jones' educational background includes an undergraduate degree in Chemical Engineering (B.A.Sc.) and a Master's degree in Occupational Health and Safety (M.A.Sc.). He is a Professional Engineer (P.Eng.), a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH), a Registered Occupational Hygienist (ROH), and a Canadian Registered Safety Professional (CRSP).</p> <p>He has completed work in heavy industry, manufacturing, the commercial buildings industry, institutional settings, and for all levels of government in Canada and overseas. As an advocate for Occupational Health and Safety, Glyn is frequently invited to lecture in his field and is a regular conference speaker in Canada. He has assisted in the development of OHS certificate and diploma programs for several universities across Canada and has been engaged on a number of occasions to teach at the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, the University of New Brunswick, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, and Mount Royal University.</p> <p>Mr. Jones is involved with a variety of Professional Associations and committees including the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) where he held the position of Program Director (1996), President (1997), and Past President (1998). He is also associated with the CSSE where he was the Calgary Chapter Treasurer (2005</p> |

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| | | | | | – 2009) and Calgary Chapter Chair (2009 – 2011). Presently, Glyn is the Regional Vice President for the CSSE Alberta, Northwest Territories and Nunavut Region. |
| 203 | 10:30-11:30 | Rod Davis | Alberta’s Islands and Bridges | <p>Alberta is known to be a landlocked province and as such not particularly well populated with large lakes or bodies of water. It then logically flows that few bridges would be required, however Safety Professionals need to think of these islands and bridges not as bodies of water but rather bridges representing industry and lakes as sectors within our communities. The lakes are our current and future workforce. Alberta’s Islands and Bridges presentation will explore and expose the challenges and opportunities that employers needs to recognize, identify and comprehend when seeking to connect their businesses to these islands via strong and effective employment bridges. This presentation will provide valuable population facts, cultural and social issues, social trends and shifting elements dealing with a changing workforce. It will provide a unique insight to the current and future mix of workers and how organizations can effectively interact to improve recruiting, communication, cooperation and productivity.</p> | <p>Reassuring and highly visible, Mr. Davis has earned a reputation as something of an artist, successfully leading in the field of program development, training, consulting and investigation techniques.</p> <p>Following retirement from Law Enforcement in the latter part of 2002, Mr. Davis became one of the principles of The Viscount Group Inc., a multi-faceted Forensic Services Corporation. As a recognized Forensic Reconstruction Expert and International Trainer, Mr. Davis has trained and consulted in North and South America, Europe and the Middle East.</p> <p>In keeping with his passion for training and program development, Mr. Davis has become a frequent guest lecturer at a number of colleges as well as other educational institutions and has provided his assistance with their program and curriculum development. This has recently lead him to be a sought after conference presenter and guest speaker on topics of transportation safety and investigative matters.</p> <p>As a regular presenter at various conferences, he has initiated innovative programs and assisted clients in the creation and improvement of existing systems. His insights, reflections and creativity consistently attract organizations and corporations who strive for excellence and who seek his participation.</p> |

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| 204 | 10:30-11:30 | Gord Winkel | The Safety Imperative – Taking Risk Management to the Next Level | The increased application of proven safety and risk management elements in society provides an opportunity for community and industry alike. Building on leading practices informs risk management strategies that in turn save lives, prevent harm, protect the environment and avoid serious asset loss. In the face of persisting incidents, the safety imperative drives performance improvement supporting sustainable industrial development and attaining a safer society. | <p>Retired as a Vice President from Syncrude Canada Ltd., Gord Winkel joined the University of Alberta in 2010 and has supported the establishment of the David and Joan Lynch School of Engineering Safety and Risk Management in 2015. The school will deliver education in safety and risk management as a core competency course requirement for all undergraduate engineering disciplines graduating from the University of Alberta, as well as initiating graduate studies and research in the field.</p> <p>His work to improve safety and technology in Mining led to Distinguished Lecturer Awards from the Canadian Institute of Mining in 2002, 2008 and 2013.</p> <p>Gord chairs the Surface Mining Association for Research and Technology (SMART) and the J.T. Ryan Safety Committee for the Canadian Institute of Mining. Gord is Vice Chair for the University of Alberta Board of Governors Safety, Health and Environment Committee, and serves on the Alberta Health Services Safety and Quality Committee. Additionally, Gord serves on a Board for the Commissionaires of Northern Alberta Division and on the Board for Careers, The Next Generation.</p> <p>Gord also works to provide support in safety, risk management and organization effectiveness, to firms and agencies across Canada.</p> |
| 205 | 1:00-2:00 | Kris Porlier | Mental Health Issues in the Workplace: Why You Should Care | Mental health problems account for about half of the employee absences due to illness each year in Canada. What’s the impact in your workplace? How do employees experiencing mental health issues effect productivity? Supervisors and co-workers may notice changes in employee’s mood and behavior. At what point should you step in and assist an employee through mental health issues? Are you prepared? | Kris Porlier is the Manager of Training for St. John Ambulance, Alberta Council. Kris is an EMT-A and a Reserve Medical Assistant with the Royal Canadian Medical Service. In 2008, Kris completed a tour of service to Afghanistan and has served on several domestic operations. As a Manager and Senior Non- |

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| | | | | <p>What resources are available for managers and supervisors? If mental health problems are recognized early and proper treatment is obtained, most people can quickly return to their normal performance at work.</p> | <p>Commissioned Member, Kris has assisted and managed several employees and co-workers suffering from mental health disorders and during his time in civilian healthcare, he has been afforded the opportunity to work with many special populations. Kris has a Bachelor of Biological Sciences from the University of Alberta with a minor in Psychology. Kris also instructs both the Mental Health First Aid and the Road to Mental Readiness course, through the Mental Health Commission of Canada. He has taken active volunteer roles with both military peer support programs and the Edmonton Police Victim Services Unit. He currently volunteers as a Director on the Jessica Martel Memorial Foundation Board of Directors, assisting victims of Domestic Violence.</p> |
| 206 | 1:00-2:00 | Tammy Hawkins | NCSO Update | TBC | <p>Tammy Hawkins started with the ACSA in 2010 as a Quality Assurance Administrator. Over the years, she worked across multiple areas of the organization, including contract training in the classrooms, before becoming Director of Learning Services in 2012. Three years later, Tammy assumed her current position of Chief Operations Officer and oversees the staffing and administration of the COR Department.</p> <p>Tammy's career background, and passion, is in education with over twenty years' experience in the field of Adult Education. After graduating from a Bachelor of the Arts at Concordia and a Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta, Tammy went on to teach at NorQuest College for thirteen years. Prior to joining the ACSA in 2010, Tammy was a Principal at Reacon Safety Consulting where she audited and consulted in HSE for a number of residential construction companies, assisting in the development</p> |

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| | | | | | <p>and implementation of their individualized Safety Management Systems.</p> <p>Today, Tammy has a number of accomplishments and certifications supporting her position as a leader in the Albertan construction safety industry, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold Seal, National Construction Safety Officer (NCSO), 2008 • Canadian Registered Safety Professional (CRSP), Board of Canadian Registered Safety Professionals, 2013 • Board of Certified Safety Professionals (CSP), 2015 • OH&S Certificate, University of Alberta Extension |
| 207 | 1:00-2:00 | Lev Pobirsky | Workplace Violence | <p>What really happens during an act of workplace violence? Drawing upon multiple combat tours as a Marine Corps Infantry Officer, Lev will help you recognize signs of troubles employees and shed much needed light on how humans respond to potentially violent situations. In today's volatile environment, managing workplace violence risk is a must.</p> <p>Learning outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness of historical workplace violence events and societal trends - Spot warning signs of troubled employees - Understanding of what happens to the body and mind when violence unfolds - Familiarity with best practices for mitigating workplace violence risk | <p>Lev Pobirsky is the Director – Environmental, Health & Safety, for Pepsi-Cola National Brand Beverages. In his role, he provides focused safety leadership to over 5,000 employees at over 20 manufacturing facilities, warehouse, and transportation depots across the United States. Previously Lev served as Corporate Director of Safety & Training for Easton Coach Company, one of the largest transportation companies in the United States. Mr. Pobirsky's previous employment also included various EH&S roles with PepsiCo/Frito-Lay.</p> <p>Lev earned a B.A. Political Science from Virginia Military Institute, an MBA from Pennsylvania State University, and an M.A. in Leadership & Organization from St. Louis University. He is a certified National Safety Council Defensive Driving Instructor, a Smith System instruction, an OSHA General Industry & Construction</p> |

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| | | | | | <p>outreach trainer, and a Certified Health and Safety Manager.</p> <p>Prior to corporate life. Mr. Pobirsky served as an Infantry Officer in the United States Marine Corps, attaining the rank of Captain.</p> |
| 208 | 2:10-3:30 | Darby Allen | Courage Inside the Fire | <p>The 2016 Albertan wildfire was the costliest disaster in Canadian history—destroying 2,400 buildings and homes and displacing the entire community of Fort McMurray. And through it all, from beginning to end, was Fire Chief Darby Allen. A figure of stability to his community, a reliable source of information to the press, and a humble leader, Allen became the human face of both incredible tragedy and courage. With Allen’s leadership, Fort McMurray was successfully evacuated—and the fire claimed zero lives.</p> <p>Today, Allen is bringing the riveting inside story of the rescue operations to audiences everywhere. Framed as a personal narrative, his keynotes take you through his day-to-day struggles against the fire. How did the teams make their countless, critical decisions? How did they maintain composure in life-or-death conditions? Simply—what was it like to endure, and overcome, a disaster of such magnitude in one’s own backyard? Beyond the personal, Allen also offers actionable takeaways for leaders in any field: lessons on encouraging and trusting your teammates wholeheartedly; never losing focus on the moment by worrying about the larger story; and establishing unbreakable relationships—before it’s too late.</p> | <p>During the Alberta wildfire of 2016, fire chief DARBY ALLEN shot to global acclaim for guiding the 88,000 residents of Fort McMurray to safety with no loss of life—the largest evacuation in Canadian history. Now, he offers guidance on how to be a stoic, quick-thinking leader in tough situations. We all face emergencies and crises—Allen shows us how to stay the course.</p> <p>Known as the face of the monstrous Alberta wildfires—and widely celebrated as a national hero—Darby Allen is an exemplar of selfless courage and level-headedness under pressure. Allen was Regional Fire Chief of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (now retired), an area that encompasses the community of Fort McMurray. In spring 2016, he spearheaded the evacuation of the city’s entire population while the rest of the world watched. Throughout the ensuing weeks of operations, he worked tirelessly with first responders and volunteers, who came from across the nation (and globe) to assist. His updates to the media were not only a means of reliable information, but a source of optimism—Allen provided calm reassurance as the lead spokesperson throughout the rescue efforts.</p> <p>A native of Birmingham, England, where he worked as a firefighter for the Hampshire Fire Brigade, Allen</p> |

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| | | | | | immigrated to Canada in 1990. He began work as a firefighter with the Calgary Fire Department in 1992, moving up in rank from Training Officer to Assistant Deputy Chief of Operations, before moving on to Fort McMurray Fire Service in 2009, where he became Regional Fire Chief in 2013. |
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