



IOWA-ILLINOIS SAFETY COUNCIL'S

73RD ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Conference & Expo

April 22-23, 2026

Hyatt Regency - Coralville, Iowa



WWW.IISC.ORG/PDC



an **NSC** chapter

EXHIBITOR INFORMATION



EXPO HOURS:

- The Expo Hall will be open:
- Wednesday, April 22nd 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
 - Thursday, April 23rd 8:00 am - 10:30 am
 - Setup times: Tuesday, April 21st 1:00 - 4:00 pm and Wednesday, April 22nd 7:00 - 8:00 am.

WHY EXHIBIT?

QUALITY OVER QUANTITY! While our conference is smaller than our neighboring chapter conferences, our conference is one of the largest Safety & Health events for Iowa and Illinois, bringing together safety professionals from a wide range companies including manufacturing, insurance, healthcare, and more! Past exhibitors have said that while the attendance isn't as large as other shows, the people attending the IISC conference are the ones they want to get in front of.

EXHIBITOR BENEFITS:

- Space size: approximately 8' x 8'
- One 6' skirted table and two chairs per booth
- Electricity in each booth included in exhibitor fee
- Two badges per booth for exhibitor reps to attend keynote and breakout sessions on Wednesday and Thursday
- Lunch, Networking Reception (Wednesday) and Breakfast (Thursday) included for two exhibitor reps per booth
- Company Logo and website link listed on IISC's Vendor Mall until December 31, 2026
- Company profile listed in IISC's 2025 Annual Report
- Final attendee list provided after the conference
- Maximum Exposure - The keynote sessions on both days will be in the same room as the vendors

REGISTER ONLINE at www.iisc.org/exhibitor-information

EXHIBITOR FEES:

Single Booth
\$655 for Members of IISC
\$830 for Not-Yet-A-Member

Double Booth
\$1055 for Members of IISC
\$1230 for Not-Yet-A-Member

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION

Not a member?

Contact Samantha at Samantha@iisc.org to find how out you can register at the member price and **SAVE!**

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

	Member	Non member	PRICE INCREASE AFTER APRIL 1	
			Member	Non member
BOTH DAYS Wednesday & Thursday <i>Includes: Exhibit hall, Wed & Thurs Keynotes and breakout sessions, Wed lunch, Wed Hospitality Hour, and Thurs Awards Ceremony (w/full hot breakfast)</i>	\$425	\$625	\$475	\$675
Wednesday Only <i>Includes: Exhibit hall, Wed Keynote and breakout sessions, Lunch & Hospitality Hour</i>	\$245	\$345	\$295	\$395
Thursday Only <i>Includes: Exhibit hall, Awards Ceremony (with full hot breakfast) & Keynote and Thurs breakout sessions</i>	\$200	\$300	\$250	\$350
Awards Ceremony Only (Thurs 8:30 - 10:30 am) <i>Includes: Exhibit hall, Awards Ceremony (with full hot breakfast) & Keynote session</i>	\$85	\$105	\$85	\$105

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.IISC.ORG/PDC

REGISTRATION DISCOUNT

Register 5 people at regular price for **BOTH DAYS** and the 6th registration is **FREE**.

All attendees must be registered at the same time to receive this discount. You may register attendees and provide names later. Please email Dawn@iisc.org for more information.

VALUE-ADDED FEATURES FOR VENDORS!

- Attendee Passport - To further encourage booth visits by our attendee
- Best of Show Competition - Your chance to win a free booth registration for the 2027 PDC



IISC SAFETY AWARDS



Award Recipients will be honored at the Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 23, 2026

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MARCH 1, 2026

Visit www.iisc.org/safetyawardsprogram for complete details on how to apply for the IISC Safety Awards. Questions? Email Samantha@iisc.org



AVAILABLE AWARDS:

Community Enrichment Award

Recognizes 1 IISC member organization which has contributed significantly to its local community in areas of safety, health or environmental efforts.

Hazard Control Recognition Award

A Hazard Control is a specific, identifiable change implemented to reduce or eliminate an individual's exposure to a hazard in the workplace. Every IISC member company that submits a hazard control will receive a plaque or yearly tag for a current plaque.

President's Award

Five IISC member companies will receive the President's Award for outstanding contributions with controlling hazards.

Chuck Goodman Safety in Excellence Award

This award is awarded to one IISC member organization that goes above and beyond in the name of safety at their facility.

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026

- 1:00 pm -- Registration Desk open (until 4:00 pm)
Early attendee packet pickup
- 1:00 pm -- Exhibitor setup (until 4:00 pm)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026

- 8:00 am -- Registration desk and Exhibit Hall open
- 9:00 am -- Annual Meeting & Keynote
- 10:15 am -- Breaktime in Exhibit Hall
- 11:00 am -- Breakout sessions 1
- 12:00 pm -- Lunch
- 1:00 pm -- Breakout Sessions 2
- 2:15 pm -- Breakout Sessions 3
- 3:15 pm -- Breaktime in Exhibit Hall
- 3:45 pm -- Breakout Sessions 4
- 4:45 pm -- Networking Reception in Exhibit Hall

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

- 8:00 am -- Registration desk and Exhibit Hall open
- 8:30 am -- Awards Ceremony (w/breakfast) & Keynote
- 10:30 am -- Breakout sessions 5
- 11:45 am -- Breakout sessions 6

CONFERENCE LOCATION & ACCOMODATIONS



HYATT REGENCY CORAVILLE

300 E 9th St - Coraville, IA
319-688-4000

[Reserve your room online](#)

Rate: \$139 (Standard or Double Bed Room)

Parking is included in hotel room cost and parking will be validated for all attendees upon request during the conference.

Cut off date: March 31, 2026



BILL TOMS

The Safety Pirate

“7,200 Volts Later: The Shortcut That Changed Everything”

Bill delivers a powerful, firsthand account of surviving a life-altering high-voltage incident that changed his future forever. He takes audiences on a compelling journey—from the accident and recovery to rebuilding his life and launching a career in occupational safety. Attendees will gain eye-opening insights into current fatality and injury trends, learn how to use OSHA data to predict risks within their own industries, and understand the most common reasons workplace injuries occur. Most importantly, Bill translates hard lessons into practical strategies, showing how stronger safety management programs can prevent injuries and save lives.

Bill is living proof that one moment can change everything. He survived a 7,200-volt electrocution—an accident that should have ended his story, but instead, it transformed his life. Today, he's taken that life-altering experience and turned it into a powerful mission: to raise awareness, inspire change, and help others prioritize safety in every task. As a safety professional and keynote speaker, he now shares his journey at conferences, workplaces, and events across the country, showing the real consequences of shortcuts and the true value of safety.

Bill began his working career in 1984 by serving four years in the US Air Force, where he first trained to become a power lineman. After leaving the Air Force in 1988, he went to work for MB Haynes Corporation in his hometown of Asheville, NC, where he has worked for 37 years. In 1997, Bill sustained a high-voltage electrical contact incident, which resulted in the amputation of his right hand and foot.

After recovering from his electrocution, he began working in the Safety Department of his company. He is now the VP of Safety and Risk Management for MB Haynes Corporation and is responsible for overseeing the safety of their 650 employees, who work in ten different divisions and perform nearly every trade in the construction industry. Bill is a Certified Safety Professional through the Board of Certified Safety Professionals and a Certified Utility Safety Professional through the Utility Safety & Operations Leadership Network. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Safety & Health from Columbia Southern University in Orange Beach, Alabama, and is a member of the American Society of Safety Professionals. He is passionate about safety and enjoys talking with others about the importance of working safely and avoiding injuries.



RICH WEBB

Owner / Master Instructor
Blue Ethos Specialized Training

“Lead Like a Hero: Why the Small Moments Matter Most”

In high-risk environments, leadership is rarely defined by a single crisis—it's shaped by the everyday moments that build trust, confidence, and readiness long before something goes wrong.

In Lead Like a Hero, Rich Webb draws on nearly two decades of law-enforcement and safety leadership experience to explore the difference between leading with presence and purpose versus leading through avoidance and fear. Through powerful stories and practical insights, this keynote focuses on the 99.9% of leadership moments that determine how teams perform, communicate, and follow when it matters most.

Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how intuition, preparation, and difficult conversations play a critical role in safety culture—and why relationships, not titles, are the foundation of effective leadership.

Rich Webb is the co-founder of Blue Ethos Specialized Training and brings 18 years of frontline law-enforcement experience into his work today.

Throughout his career, Rich served in high-responsibility roles including patrol sergeant, mobile field force leader, and hostage negotiator—roles that demanded calm communication, decisive leadership, and sound judgment under extreme pressure.

In 2014, Rich was awarded the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Medal of Honor for his actions during a life-threatening incident on the steps of a daycare—an experience that helped shape his commitment to preparation, teamwork, and leadership when it matters most.

In 2020, Rich led his department Mobile Field Force team during the Minneapolis civil unrest, operating in an environment defined by uncertainty, high emotion, and rapidly evolving threats. That experience further reinforced the importance of disciplined decision-making, trust, and leadership under sustained pressure.

Now retired from law enforcement, Rich works full-time with Blue Ethos Specialized Training, where he has trained organizations across the United States. His work focuses on strengthening active threat preparedness, situational awareness, improving communication under stress, and building safer, more resilient teams.



8:00 AM REGISTRATION AND EXHIBITS OPEN

9:00 - 10:15 AM
ANNUAL MEETING & OPENING KEYNOTE

BILL TOMS - The Safety Pirate
“7,200 Volts Later: The Shortcut That Changed Everything”

10:15 - 11:00 AM | BREAK W/EXHIBITORS

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026
BREAKOUT SESSIONS -----

1A: Using FMEA to Reduce Safety Risks

Carl Vass - Falcon Safety
I should have seen that coming. Risk and hazards can often be predicted and eliminated by the use of Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA) when we know how to use the FMEA technique to mitigate risks and track progress.

1B: Beyond Pounds: The Hidden Truths Behind Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Data
Misty Sinclair, P.E. - Trinity Consultants
Most TRI discussions focus on pounds released, recycled, or treated, but behind every number lie assumptions and human decisions that influence public-facing numbers. This session helps participants identify common reporting errors and apply practical QA/QC methods to improve data accuracy and consistency.

1C: Do Better, Be Better
Tom VanderLinden - ABC of Iowa
Will your company be ready for the ever-changing safety field, now and in the coming years? We will summarize what it takes to have a successful, compliant, and productive safety program.

1D: Proposed Changes to NFPA 70E - 2027
Jason Wolf - The ESCO Group
NFPA 70E - 2027 is set to be released later in 2026. Many changes including, additional persons, contact thermal hazard, and a complete rebuild of Chapter 3 (batteries risk assessment and solar installations). See how the new revisions affect your existing electrical safety and maintenance programs.

1E: High Expectations
Kirk Dighton - DC Taylor Company and Imperial Safety Solutions LLC
In 2017 OSHA initiated the Walking Working Surfaces Standard for General Industry. Many business owners and general industry safety professionals do not have a clear understanding of the expectations that businesses have for protecting employees and contractors who must go the roof for work duties. Let's have a clear discussion of the standard and hear about best practices for protecting personnel from falls from height.

12:00 - 1:00 PM | LUNCH AND TIME W/EXHIBITORS

1:00 - 2:00 PM | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026
BREAKOUT SESSIONS -----

2A: Metal Safety Flooring to Prevent Slips and Falls
Kevin Buchanan - SLIPNOT
Slips, trips, and falls are the leading driver of severe workers' compensation claims. These incidents are preventable and innovations in metal safety flooring can provide exceptional slip resistant safety. Learn about the various products on the market that can help make your projects safer.

2B: When Virtual Became Reality: How VR Training Created Jobs, Cut Accidents, and Transformed Safety
Steve Drake - Virtual Forklift, LLC
In 2025, Virtual Forklift, LLC closed the skilled operator gap by partnering with a global manufacturer, Goodwill, and The Workforce Board. 100% of the students received a job offer. Our VR-based, hands-on training model redefines forklift safety and delivers real workforce results.

2C: OSHA Update
Brian Bothast - U.S. Dept of Labor - OSHA
This session will give updates about current and future OSHA regulations.

2D: The Role of Recovery in Building Safe and Productive Workplaces
Dr. Adam Moskowitz & Diane Rohlman, PhD
University of Iowa, Healthier Workforce Center
Survey findings reveal employer needs in addressing substance use and mental health. This session introduces a Recovery Friendly Workplace designation program for Iowa employers to support recovery, building a safer and more productive workplace.

2E: Basic Understanding of Workers' Compensation and Your Experience Modification Rate
Jill Darin - World Insurance Associates, LLC
This is a great presentation focused towards new safety professionals or who have changing responsibilities for those who will be handling injury paperwork and the insurance side of the injury.



2:15 - 3:15 PM | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026

BREAKOUT SESSIONS -----

3A: Elephants in the Room: Unspoken Factors that Impact Safety Conversations

George Gruetzmacher - WI State Laboratory of Hygiene - UW Madison
"They just don't get it?" Have you that conversation where someone doesn't get that there is a serious hazard and they need to wear their PPE? Or maybe someone has this concern about a hazard and you just know that the risk is really small. Often there is a disconnect between your approach to safety and theirs. Often the issue is not the underlying risk, but a difference in one of these unspoken factors: one of the elephants in the room.

3B: Safety that Pays: Turning Wearable Leading Indicator Data and Predictive Analytics into Measurable Business Value

Tom West - MakuSafe Wearable Tech

Discover how organizations are using wearable safety technology and predictive analytics to deliver measurable ROI. Learn how leading indicator data reduces incidents, claims, and costs—proving that safety investments can generate substantial financial and operational value.

3C: Safety and Health is NO Accident

Peggy Peterson - State of Iowa - Iowa OSHA Consultation and Education
Safety is everyone's responsibility—and with the right mindset, it can be effective and empowering, not just mandatory. If your company is thinking about the VPP or SHARP award program they must have an effective Safety and Health Management System.

3D: NFPA 70e the 101's and Updates

Kam Alipour - Cintas Corp

We will discuss the 2024 updated standard and what changes were put in. We will discuss the OSHA announcement in Nov 2024 and how that impacts the employer along with the basics on the standard around training, hazard risk assessments, PPE requirements and understanding on labels along with a checklist of what they are missing currently today in their program.

3E: Export Manifests & e-Manifests: What Shippers and Generators Must Do in 2026

Andrew Ewald - Trinity Consultants

This presentation will explain the federal requirement for hazardous-waste export manifests to be submitted to EPA's e-Manifest system beginning December 1, 2025, and outline what this means for generators, transporters, and brokers operating in 2026. Attendees will learn how the expanded e-Manifest framework changes documentation, recordkeeping, and communication obligations for waste export shipments under RCRA. The session will cover applicability, roles and responsibilities, data elements required for compliant submission, timing requirements, and common errors that create enforcement risk. Practical guidance will be provided for updating internal SOPs, onboarding staff and vendors to the e-Manifest system, verifying data quality, and building an internal compliance checklist to ensure seamless transition ahead of the 2026 operating year.

3:45 - 4:45 PM | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026

BREAKOUT SESSIONS -----

4A: The Hidden Factor in Building a Culture of Safety

Karen Schumacher - Crescendo Leadership Development

Behind every checklist and protocol is a powerful driver of safety outcomes: the Emotional Critical Path. While organizations often focus on technical controls, up to 70% of incidents are driven by human and behavioral factors. This engaging, story-driven workshop helps safety leaders understand and manage the emotional forces that shape focus, trust, and decision-making, using emotional intelligence tools to strengthen communication, engagement, and safe work practices.

4B: Beyond the Hard Hat: How Virtual Reality and AI Are Rebuilding the Way We Train

Edward G. Weiss - EG Weiss & Associates

Virtual reality is changing how we teach safety, compliance, and operations. E.G. Weiss explores the science behind immersive learning, the proven gains in retention, and the real-world savings in time and cost. Blending humor with hard data, he shows how VR and AI are transforming onboarding and maintenance training while reframing fears of "robot takeover" into opportunities for innovation, reassignment, and human-centered efficiency.

4C: Teaching the Skill of Working Safely - Equipping Your Workforce with Mental PPE

Richard Flynt - National Safety Council

As a consultant for the NSC, one of the most common questions I hear from clients is, "How can we get our employees to work more safely?" While we don't blame workers for making errors and we know we cannot eliminate human error, we absolutely can and should work to reduce it wherever we can. When asked what "working safely" means, most will say something like "Wearing your PPE and following the safety rules". Well, that is only the starting line for developing the true skill of working safely! If we expect our people to work safely, it's only fair that we teach them HOW! That is what this presentation is about. Along the way, we'll have some fun, and demonstrate an approach to presenting safety concepts in a way that "locks them in" to your employees' memories so they are not easily forgotten.

4D: Every Breath You Take - A Review of Toxic Gases

Dr. Pamela Moore & Dr. Rebecca Kusko - University of Iowa Health Care

This presentation will provide a brief overview of toxic gases focusing on routes of exposure and early management. We will discuss two mass casualty events, two high-risk gases related to farming, and common household exposures.

4E: The Sound of Safety

Jennifer Holliday, CIH - Terracon Consultants, Inc.

Workplace noise exposures can leave lasting impacts in the lives of employees and those around them. Understanding how to adequately measure and control noise exposures are critical components of hearing conservation. Resistant management often times will believe data and numbers, especially when it comes to work comp costs and company overhead. This case study will show the importance of industrial hygiene in effective program management.

4:45 - 6:00 PM | NETWORKING RECEPTION

Time w/ Exhibitors - Networking, drinks and snacks - Door prize drawings

***Door prizes from all companies are welcome!*

*If your company would like to donate a doorprize, drop them off at the IISC booth or the registration desk during the conference***

3:15 - 3:45 | BREAK W/EXHIBITORS



8:00 AM - REGISTRATION AND EXHIBITS OPEN

8:30 - 10:00 AM - AWARDS CEREMONY & KEYNOTE SESSION

This session includes a full hot breakfast for all attendees to enjoy during the Awards Ceremony and Keynote session.

RICH WEBB - Blue Ethos Specialized Training
“Lead Like a Hero: Why the Small Moments Matter Most”

10:00 - 10:30 AM - LAST CHANCE W/ THE EXHIBITORS!

10:30 - 11:30 AM | THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

BREAKOUT SESSIONS -----

5A: Difficult Times, Difficult Conversations

Chris Ross - SafeStart

Conflict management doesn't need to be tough. Having difficult conversations is a skill that can be learned and practiced. Discover how resolving problems through skilled communication can build relationships, enhance creativity, boost engagement, develop organizational learning loops and increase performance.

5B: Above and Beyond: Using Technology to Transform Safety, Compliance, and Workplace Efficiency

Jonathon W. Hawke Weiss - Hawke Multimedia

Jonathon reveals how drones, apps, and digital tools can revolutionize workplace safety and compliance. With years of experience in risk management and public safety, Weiss demonstrates how technology can simplify assessments, training, and documentation while cutting costs and improving results. This session is a roadmap for safety professionals ready to harness innovation without overwhelming budgets or technical headaches.

5C: The Safety Exchange: Sharing Lessons, Leading Change

Brittany Neese & Dave Hinz - City of Cedar Rapids

Come prepared to share your safety successes or struggles you're facing, so together we can share our experiences, advice, and insight in hopes you leave feeling encouraged, motivated, and inspired. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn from one another!

5D: Combustible Dust and Arc Flash: Key NFPA Standards and PPE Best Practices Mitigate the Consequences of Human Error!

Scott Francis - Westex: A Milliken Brand

Reduce the likelihood of incident occurrence and mitigate injury severity with NFPA standards (NFPA 660 and NFPA 70E) and PPE best practices. Comfort = Protection as worn FR/AR clothing mitigates the consequences of human error! Improve thermal hazard risk assessment (maintenance emphasis) and use comfortable PPE to meet thermal hazard safety goals!

5E: Optimizing Air Permitting: Strategies for Efficient PSD, Title V, & Construction Permitting

Dan Deatsch - Trinity Consultants

The presentation provides information on best practices for going through the air permitting process and working with agencies to create permits that are practical, timely, and have reasonable compliance requirements.

11:45 AM - 12:45 PM | THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

BREAKOUT SESSIONS -----

6A: LinkedIn Beyond the Job Search: Best Practices for Building Credibility, Community, and Career

Carrie Kolodji - BITCO Insurance Companies

AMPLIFY YOUR EXPERIENCE. In this interactive session, learn how safety professionals can leverage LinkedIn beyond job searching to build credibility, grow community, share expertise, and support professional development and career growth.

6B: Risk Appetites-What Are the Chances

Ryan Blau - Pure Fishing

Risk's-We take them every day! What are some of the risks you take that have become so normal you don't even consider them, and how does this translate to the workplace?

6C: Buried Alive: What a Trench Collapse Survivor Wants You to Know

Joe Tantarelli - SafeStart

The nightmare of being buried alive became a reality for Joe Tantarelli when a trench he was working in collapsed. Hear his story of survival and learn to help workers avoid similar incidents by applying practical human factors insights.

6D: QPR Suicide Prevention Training – Equipping Gatekeepers to Save Lives

Megan Hammes - Hammes Homestead and Consulting

QPR is an evidence-based program, widely recognized as a vital tool for creating healthier, safer workplaces. This session not only equips participants with life-saving skills but also comes with a QPR Gatekeeper Certification plus print and digital materials to support the training. Join this impactful session to gain practical tools, foster a culture of care in the workplace, and contribute to the advancement of workplace safety.

6E: Environmental Compliance 101 for Safety Pros

Linden Terpstra - EHS Support Source

Stepping into environmental responsibilities as an EHS leader can feel overwhelming without the right foundation. This session equips you with the essentials of air, water, waste, and chemical requirements so you can lead with clarity, ask the right questions, and strengthen your organization's compliance and confidence.



Executive Sponsor Program



an **nsc** chapter

RAISE YOUR SAFETY PROFILE!

Becoming a sponsor with the Iowa-Illinois Safety Council sends the message that the importance of safety within your workplace, homes, and communities is indeed a priority to you.

As a **501(c)3 non-profit organization** we rely heavily on our members support to continue to grow as your educational safety provider in an ever changing world. It is our job to supply you as our members with the most current high quality safety trainings, and your support allows us to continue to do that at a very reasonable cost.

Please consider becoming an Executive Sponsor for the Iowa-Illinois Safety Council. Your sponsorship and support will help IISC's safety training programs and our community outreach efforts. Sponsorship also allows us to expand our Annual Professional Development Conference, along with providing other events throughout the year!

For more information visit <https://www.iisc.org/sponsor> or email Heather@iisc.org

Thank you!

to our 2025 sponsors

Become a sponsor for 2026 to have your company or organization promoted April 2026 - March 2027.



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