

2026 Conference & Expo

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Please take time to visit our exhibitors:

VPPPA Region VIII 2026 Safety Summit Agenda

May 12th – 14th, 2026
Denver, Colorado

Tuesday, May 12th, 2026

7:00 am	Registration Opens: *Aqua*
7:30 to 8:00 am	Continental Breakfast (Workshop Attendees)*: Periwinkle*
8:00 am to Noon	VPP 101 / Application Workshop: *Teal*
Noon to 1:00 pm	Lunch (Workshop Attendees): *Periwinkle*
1:00 to 4:00 pm	VPP 101 / Application Workshop*: Teal*

Wednesday, May 13th, 2026

7:00 am	Registration & Vendor Hall Open: *Citrus Ballroom*
7:30 am	Breakfast: *Citrus Ballroom*
8:30 am	Opening General Session and Annual Business Meeting: *Citrus Ballroom*
9:00-10:15 am	Keynote Speaker: Leaving a Safety Legacy – Wylie Davidson: *Citrus Ballroom*
10:15 to 10:45 am	Expo Introduction: *Citrus Ballroom*
11:00 to 11:45 am	**Breakout Sessions -**
	The Marshmallow Challenge: Mike Courouleau, Cajun Safety: *Teal*
	Time Management: Philip Tanzilo, Business Training Works: *Periwinkle*
	VPPPA Update: Terry Schulte, VPPPA National Board of Directors: *Sepia*
	Effective Training Techniques (ADDIE): James Day, WCF Insurance: *Chartreuse*
	Slip and Fall Simulator: Bill Thorne, InBiodyne: *West Parking*
Noon to 1:30 pm	Lunch and OSHA Presentation: *Citrus Ballroom*

1:45 to 2:30 pm **Breakout Sessions -**

Making Safety Stick – Using Games and Microdosed Learning to Boost Retention: Mike Courouleau, Cajun Safety: *Teal*

Considerate Communication: Philip Tanzilo, Business Training Works: *Periwinkle*

Train Dogs, Facilitate Adults: Gary Lietz, GS Lietz & Associates: *Sepia*

It's Bigger Than Safety: Pete Susca, OpX Safety: *Chartreuse*

Slip and Fall Simulator: Bill Thorne, InBiodyne: *West Parking*

2:45 to 3:30 pm **Breakout Sessions -**

NFPA Essentials – What Every Facilities Team Needs to Know About Arc-Flash and Maintenance Safety: Christ Griego/Rueben Wahab, Sturgeon Electric/MYR Group: *Teal*

Managing Stress: Philip Tanzilo, Business Training Works: *Periwinkle*

Can YOU Start a Fire?: Lane Miller, Work Site Safety, Inc.: *Sepia*

Creating Predictive Metrics: Pete Susca, OpX Safety: *Chartreuse*

Slip and Fall Simulator: Bill Thorne, InBiodyne: *West Parking*

3:45 to 4:30 pm **Breakout Sessions -**

The Energy Wheel – Revealaing the Unseen Hazards: Chris Griego/Dan Hart, Sturgeon Electric: *Teal*

Communication Jungle: Philip Tanzilo, Business Training Works: *Periwinkle*

Safety Programs – Does Yours Cut the Mustard?: Lane Miller, Work Site Safety, Inc.: *Sepia*

Fatality Prevention – Do You Have a Risk Blind Spot?: Pete Susca, OpX Safety: *Chartruese*

Slip and Fall Simulator: Bill Thorne, InBiodyne: *West Parking*

5:00 to 7:00 pm **Exhibitor & Networking Social —** Enjoy great food and drinks while socializing with others from our Region. Meet your old friends and make new ones! Take time to stop and chat with our exhibitor partners who help us along the path to achieving and sustaining VPP status. *Citrus Ballroom*

Thursday, May 14th, 2025

7:00 am	Registration & Vendor Hall Open
7:30 to 8:30 am	Breakfast: *Citrus Ballroom*
8:45 to 9:30 am	**Breakout Sessions -**
	Human Performance Improvement (HPI), Common Error Traps, and HPI Tool Use: John LaFrance, Idaho National Laboratory: *Teal*
	Building a Workplace Mental Health Program: Daniel Rector, RK Industries: *Periwinkle*
	Unique Solutions for Welding Fume Management during Containment Vessel Construction: Shell Shortes, EnergySolutions: *Sepia*
	Why VPP? Here's Why!: Brad Baptiste, Cardinal CG: *Chartreuse*
	Slip and Fall Simulator: Bill Thorne, InBiodyne: *West Parking*
9:45 to 10:30 am	**Breakout Sessions -**
	Safety & Health Programs – Methods that Work: Evelyn Partner, UT OSHA: *Teal*
	Enhancing Workplace Safety and Health Through VPP: Bob Dunton, Highway 89 Safety & Environmental: *Periwinkle*
	Nuclear Decommissioning in the Modern Age: Shell Shortes, EnergySolutions: *Sepia*
	Building a Solid VPP-level Performance Management and Appraisal System: Brad Baptiste, Cardinal CG: *Chartreuse*
	Slip and Fall Simulator: Bill Thorne, InBiodyne: *West Parking*

10:45 to 11:30 am **Breakout Sessions -**

Safety & Health Programs – Methods that Work (Repeat): Evelyn Partner, UT OSHA: *Teal*

Reset and Reclaim – Learning From a 1-Year Conditional Status: Daniel Rector, RK Industries: *Periwinkle*

Human Performance Improvement (HPI), Common Error Traps, and HPI Tool Use (Repeat): John LaFrance, Idaho National Laboratory: *Sepia*

VPP – Enhancing Your Recognition and Credibility: Robert Dunton, Highway 89 Safety & Environmental: *Chartreuse*

Slip and Fall Simulator: Bill Thorne, InBiodyne: *West Parking*

11:45 am to 12:45 pm Closing and Boxed Lunch: *Citrus Ballroom*

- Thank you for attending and for your continued support -

We look forward to seeing you again in Denver in 2027!