

DIGSAFE LEADERSHIP

DECEMBER 8, 9, 10, 2026

OZARK EMPIRE FAIRGROUNDS

REGISTER AT

MOCOMMONGROUND.ORG

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: 2026 DIG SAFE LEADERSHIP FORUM

FOUNDATIONS OF SAFETY LEADERSHIP

AJ GAJDOSIK, MANAGER OF RISK CONTROL, ACUITY

The FSL program **puts safety leadership where it belongs**—in the field, with the crew, getting the job done right. **Learn how to lead by example, have better safety conversations, recognize good work, address problems before they become incidents, and turn worker concerns into practical solutions. Whether you're a supervisor, foreman, lead, or experienced crew member, this session delivers simple, hands-on leadership tools you can use** on the very next jobsite.

THE THREE-LEGGED STOOL: SAFETY, QUALITY, AND PRODUCTION

TY FARMER, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SAFETY, DYCOM INDUSTRIES, INC.

Safety, quality, and production are not competing priorities–they are the three legs holding your operation up, and when one leg gets weak, the whole stool starts to wobble. This session shows construction supervisors, foremen, and leaders how imbalance between safety, quality, and production can drive incidents and near-misses, increase rework and waste, and slowly erode the culture that keeps crews performing at their best. **Supervisors will leave with a simple, practical framework for making better field decisions, setting clear expectations, spotting imbalance early, and keeping safety, quality, and production working together–every crew, every task, every day.**

SUPERVISORS: THE ULTIMATE SAFETY STRATEGY

BRIAN SMITH, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING, JE DUNN

Want to change the culture? Stop looking at the top—and start looking at the middle. **Mid-level managers, supervisors, and foremen are the critical link between executive expectations and what happens in the field, and when they are properly aligned, trained, and coached, they can drive improvements in safety, quality, production, maintenance, and efficiency.** Walk away with a practical game plan for identifying, training, coaching, and holding your mid-level leaders accountable—so they can turn your organization's goals into everyday actions and lasting results.

SAFE TO SPEAK: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF BETTER SAFETY

DAN LESTER, CO-FOUNDER AND CEO WITH THE ART OF ADAPTION
BURNEA LESTER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS, SITE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

What happens when your crew is afraid to speak up? Problems stay hidden, mistakes get repeated, and trust starts to break down. This session gives construction supervisors and managers a practical understanding of psychological safety—and how creating an open, honest, and respectful workplace can improve safety, quality, communication, productivity, and performance. **Leave with practical ways to make it easier for employees to report hazards, admit mistakes, challenge unsafe decisions, and speak the truth before small problems become big ones–building a culture where people speak up because they know they will be heard, not punished.**

FROM INCIDENT TO IMPACT: TAKING CONTROL OF RISK

SHEILA SCHMIDT, FIELD MANAGER, MEM
FLINT WALTON, TECHNICAL SERVICES AND TRAINING SPECIALIST, MEM

Every injury tells a story–and every claim can leave a mark on your business. This fast-paced session, led by safety and workers' compensation experts, connects what happens in the field—safety rules, communication, inspections, safety meetings, corrective action, and supervisor involvement—to what happens on the business side, including claims costs and your workers' compensation experience rating. **Leave with a supervisor-focused action plan: know what your supervisors should look for, what they should say, what they should correct, and what they should follow up on every day–turning frontline leadership into fewer incidents, better claims outcomes, and a stronger safety culture.**

HIRE, MOTIVATE, RETAIN

SCOTT HONER, RISK CONTROL MANAGER, ONE DIGITAL INSURANCE

Hiring people is hard–keeping great people is even harder. This session explores how turnover affects safety incidents, complaints, productivity, customer satisfaction, and the bottom line, while digging into the workplace factors that create negativity and drive employees out the door—including management practices, communication, recognition, culture, and whether pay is really the whole story. **Walk away with practical strategies to hire smarter, motivate your people, strengthen your culture, and retain the employees your organization cannot afford to lose.**

HUMAN ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE

ROB MILLER, VICE PRESIDENT, SAFETY, KEELY CONSTRUCTION GROUP

Construction is unpredictable. Changing conditions, tight schedules, competing crew priorities, and decisions made in the field can all influence how work gets done. This construction-focused session introduces supervisors and mid-level managers to Human and Organizational Performance (HOP) and shows how field conditions, planning, communication, leadership, and work processes shape crew performance and safety. **Leave with practical tools you can use on the next jobsite to understand why work succeeds or fails, strengthen the conditions that help crews perform, and move beyond simply blaming workers when something goes wrong.**

2026 DIG SAFE LEADERSHIP AGENDA – LOWER LEVEL – WILSON LOGISTICS ARENA

TUESDAY 12-08-2026

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Registration & WELCOME to Dig Safe Leadership!
1:00 PM – 2:45 PM	Foundations of Safety Leadership *AJ Gajdosik, Risk Control Manager, Acuity Insurance*
2:45 PM - 3:00PM	Break
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM	The Three-Legged Stool *Ty Farmer, Senior Director of Corporate Safety, Dycom Industries, Inc.*
6:00 PM	Dig Safe Leadership participants are invited to attend the **MCGA Summit Welcome Reception**. We're at the Springfield Oasis Convention Center Maui & Coco rooms. All are encouraged to attend! Let's have some fun!

WEDNESDAY 12-09-2025

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Vendor show floor opens
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Summit docudrama: The Last Word
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Supervisors: The Ultimate Safety Strategy *Brian Smith, Director of Training, JE Dunn*
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Safe to Speak: The Psychology of Better Safety *Dan Lester, Co-Founder and CEO with The Art of Adaption* *Burnea Lester, Director of Communications and Community Relations, SITE Improvement Association*
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Break
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM	From Incident to Impact: Taking Control of Risk *Sheila Schmidt, Safety & Risk Services Manager, MEM* *Flint Walton, Technical Services and Training Specialist, MEM*
7:00 PM	Dig Safe Leadership participants are welcome to attend the AWESOME Casino Night at the Springfield Oasis Grand Ballroom at no charge. Throw down at the tables and have a great time at our live auction that ends the night! These are "play money" tables & we'll even provide competitors with seed money!

THURSDAY 12-10-2026

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Vendor show opens.
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Hire, Motivate, RETAIN! *Scott Honer, Senior Loss Control Consultant with OneDigital*
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Break
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Human Organizational Performance *Rob Miller, Vice President, Safety, Keely Construction Group*
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Presentation of Certificates & Event Concludes.

Questions? Reach out Chief Dig Safe Leadership Planner Travis Taylor at **816-260-3924** or e-mail **travistaylor@alphahydrovac.com**.

Find out more: Visit **www.mocommonground.org** or follow us on Facebook & LinkedIn!

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