



Session: Safety #2
Wednesday, Sept. 24
8–10 a.m.
Room N253, Las Vegas Convention Center, Upper Concourse

Title: Assessing Safety Culture in the Mining Industry

Presenter: Sonja B. Haber Ph.D., Human Performance Analysis Corporation

Abstract:

Many different types of organizations in our society depend on human performance to avoid incidents involving significant adverse consequences. The adverse consequences may range from the potential for costly employee injury rates to significant penalties for inadequate environmental performance to widespread damage or loss of human life. Industries with the potential for such consequences have placed heavy emphasis on designing system hardware and software to try to intercept and mitigate these types of events. However, it is clear from an examination of various safety-related incidents that human performance, and in particular organizational behaviors, has played a dominant role in the root cause of such events. Without an effective organizational safety culture, a safe working environment is impossible. This presentation describes a method that provides an objective and quantitative measurement of organizational safety culture. The effectiveness of this method has been demonstrated in organizations representing industries as diverse as nuclear power, research, mining, health care, and chemical reprocessing. Results from the recent use of the methodology in a mining organization will be presented, with particular emphasis placed on those elements of organizational behavior that are most related to overall safety performance. Results from the use of this methodology provide cost-effective strategies and recommendations on how to minimize these adverse consequences.