

APPA ACADEMY Safety Summit 2025

PUBLIC POWER
**NEXT
TECH
EXPO**

WI-FI NETWORK: Engineering
PASSWORD: APPA2025

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

8 am – 6:30 pm

REGISTRATION

FOYER, LEVEL 1

1:30 – 5 pm

PRESUMMIT SEMINAR

Maintaining Electric Utility Distribution Systems

BALLROOM A4-5, LEVEL 2

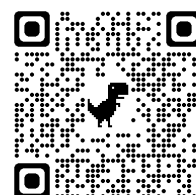
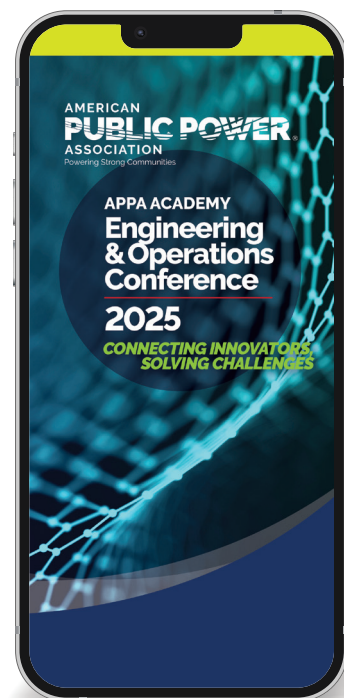
Gain insight into how to develop, enhance, and carry out an effective maintenance program for both overhead and underground high-voltage electric utility distribution systems. Review the latest principles and elements of corrective, preventive, and predictive maintenance programs, as well as best practices in inspecting, testing, and maintaining distribution lines and equipment. Also explore the legal and regulatory aspects of distribution maintenance, including NESC requirements. Preview how utilities are using new technologies to enhance all parts of system maintenance.

TOM BLACK, Management Consultant, Collaborative Learning, Inc., Colorado Springs, Colorado; and **R. JOHN MINER**, President, Collaborative Learning, Inc., Austin, Texas

DOWNLOAD THE MOBILE APP

Download the mobile app to maximize your experience:

- Get program and speaker information
- Create a customized schedule
- Connect with attendees
- Access presentations
- Learn about sponsors



MONDAY, MARCH 31



7 am – 5 pm

REGISTRATION

FOYER, LEVEL 1

7:30 – 8:30 am

NEWCOMERS AND NETWORKING BREAKFAST WITH SPONSORS

PUBLIC POWER NEXTTECH EXPO, LEVEL 1

AWARD PHOTOS

(RP3 DESIGNEES AND SAFETY AWARD
WINNERS)

FOYER, LEVEL 2

8:45 – 10 am

GENERAL SESSION

BALLROOM A1, LEVEL 2



PRESIDING: MASON BAKER, CEO and General Manager, Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems, and Chair of the APPA Engineering & Operations and Safety Summit Section



Welcome to Sacramento

FRANKIE MCDERMOTT, Chief Operating Officer and General Manager, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, California

How to Build World-Class Teams



Learn how you can inspire groups to accomplish extraordinary things together and what leadership lessons can be gained from successful teams from across the globe. Gain insight into innovative teambuilding strategies and tools to adapt, overcome, and win as one, even when the only thing constant is change. Get ideas about how to raise your team to the next level, both personally and professionally, and cultivate deep and lasting connections in any team.

ROBYN BENINCASA, American Endurance Racer, San Diego Firefighter, Author, and Motivational Speaker

10 – 10:30 am

BREAK WITH SPONSORS

PUBLIC POWER NEXTTECH
EXPO, LEVEL 1

MONDAY, MARCH 31

10:30 – 11:45 am

MEETING ROOMS 1-3, LEVEL 2

How to Build Teams Cultivating a Safety-First Mindset

Employees are the backbone of any public power organization. Explore how fostering team accountability and personal responsibility translates to a strong safety culture, including through leadership commitment, employee engagement, continuous improvement, and proactive risk management. Reflect on the standpoint of a firefighter and adventure athlete for how personal mindset and team connection translate to zero harm – and how these lessons translate to the utility environment.

ROBYN BENINCASA, *American Endurance Racer, San Diego Firefighter, Author, and Motivational Speaker*

11:45 am – 1:15 pm

LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)

1:15 – 2:30 pm

MEETING ROOMS 1-3, LEVEL 2

eSafety Tracker Roundtable

Join a roundtable discussion on the eSafety Tracker — an online tool developed with APPA members to serve as a one-stop-shop for safety training, inspection, and incident reporting. Learn about its current features and provide your input on other technologies or additional features that can be added to the system to transform your safety culture into an optimized, data-driven enterprise.

VICTORIA "TORI" LEGER, *Safety and Employee Development Supervisor, Lafayette Utility Systems, Louisiana*; and **BROOKE SINCLAIR**, *CHMM, CSP, Senior EHS Regulatory Specialist, Utilities National Market Sector Lead, EnSafe*

2:30 – 3 pm

BREAK WITH SPONSORS

PUBLIC POWER NEXTTECH EXPO, LEVEL 1

3 – 4:15 pm

MEETING ROOMS 1-3, LEVEL 2

Developing and Implementing Corrective Action Strategies for Managers and Workers

Corrective action planning is a key part of the incident investigation process. It defines how a utility prevents future incidents to strengthen its safety culture. Walk through leading practices for developing and implementing corrective action plans from the perspective of both management and operations personnel. Learn what practical tools and techniques your public power peers are using to enhance the corrective action process and ensure that incidents will lead to a safer work environment.

TRAVIS DENISON, *CLCP, Regional Safety Coordinator and JTS Instructor, Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association*; and **VALERIE SHERMAN**, *Deputy General Manager, Environmental Health and Safety, Tacoma Power, Washington*

4:30 – 6 PM

PARTY LIKE IT'S 1849 RECEPTION

PUBLIC POWER NEXTTECH EXPO, LEVEL 1

Don some western wear and enjoy food and drinks in a relaxed setting while celebrating the California Gold Rush and Sacramento's significant role in shaping American history.



TUESDAY, APRIL 1

7 am – 6 pm

REGISTRATION

FOYER, LEVEL 1

7:30 – 8:30 am

WOMEN IN PUBLIC POWER NETWORKING BREAKFAST

MEETING ROOM 4, LEVEL 2

Join us for an engaging conversation led by Joy Mustache, SMUD's Senior Attorney, and featuring a panel of female utility executives.

7:30 – 8:30 am

NETWORKING BREAKFAST WITH SPONSORS

PUBLIC POWER NEXTTECH EXPO, LEVEL 1

AWARD PHOTOS

(RP3 DESIGNEES AND SAFETY AWARD WINNERS)

FOYER, LEVEL 2

8:45 – 10 am

GENERAL SESSION

BALLROOM A1, LEVEL 2

Honoring Our Colleagues: RP3 Designations

Mutual Aid: What, Why, and How?

Join a panel of public power leaders as they delve into the critical role of mutual aid. Discover what mutual aid entails, why it is essential for APPA members to participate, and how you can get involved. Gain invaluable insights into the dynamics of extreme events, learn how utilities can prepare both as providers and recipients, and deepen your understanding of the profound impact these events have on our communities.

SCOTT CORWIN, President & CEO, American Public Power Association;

JEFFREY STEWART, Director, Lafayette Utilities System, Louisiana; and

AMY ZUBALY, Executive Director, Florida Municipal Electric Association



SCOTT CORWIN



JEFFREY STEWART



AMY ZUBALY

Honoring Our Colleagues: Safety Awards of Excellence

10 – 10:30 am

BREAK WITH SPONSORS

PUBLIC POWER NEXTTECH EXPO, LEVEL 1

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

10:30 – 11:45 am

BREAKOUT SESSION

MEETING ROOMS 1-3, LEVEL 2

Safety Strategies to Protect Workers from Extreme Heat

Utilities in every region of the country are experiencing extreme heat that has impacted their field operations. Get an overview of how some public power utilities have adapted to those extreme conditions and are taking steps to protect their workers. They'll share insights and strategies on how to address heat-related risks and implement effective mitigation measures to keep their crews safe.

JON BEASLEY, Vice President, Training and Safety, Electric Cities of Georgia; Chair, APPA Safety Committee; and **TOM BRUHL**, Electric Utility Supervisor, City of Naperville, Illinois; Vice Chair, APPA Safety Committee; **JOE SCHMIDT**, Associate Director, Workplace Safety Services, Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association; and Chair, American Public Power Association Safety Committee

11:45 am – 1:15 pm

LUNCH IN THE PUBLIC POWER NEXTTECH EXPO

LEVEL 1

Network with peers and sponsors during this complimentary lunch in the Expo Hall.

1:15 – 2:30 pm

BREAKOUT SESSION

MEETING ROOMS 1-3, LEVEL 2

Field Safety Strategies

Explore key aspects of field safety, including lone worker safety, job hazard recognition, use of tailgate checklists, and field auditing. Learn how to protect lone workers with advanced monitoring technologies, recognize and mitigate job hazards, and

use comprehensive checklists and audits to ensure compliance and continuous improvement. Hear what practical strategies and tools your public power peers are using enhance safety protocols and keep crews safe.

PATRICK LAVERTY, Chief Operating Officer, GML Utility Services Cooperative, Massachusetts; and **ANTHONY CALASCIBETA**, Electric Operations Manager, Ipswich Electric Light Department, Massachusetts

2:30 – 3 pm

BREAK WITH SPONSORS

PUBLIC POWER NEXTTECH EXPO, LEVEL 1

3 – 4:15 pm

BREAKOUT SESSION

MEETING ROOMS 1-3, LEVEL 2

Establishing Meaningful Safety Training

Keeping everyone safe takes practice — and targeted training. Discover how to pinpoint your team's training needs and effectively tailor your program and strategies accordingly. Walk through the array of training resources available, including train-the-trainer practices that can help you effectively communicate and implement updates to your safety protocols. Get actionable insights and tools that you can immediately apply to elevate safety standards at your utility.

TRAVIS HOOPS, Manager of Training and Support, Omaha Public Power District, Nebraska; and **BROOKE SINCLAIR**, CHMM, CSP, Senior EHS Regulatory Specialist, Utilities National Market Sector Lead, EnSafe

4:30 – 6 pm

HAPPY HOUR (PAY YOUR OWN WAY)

**SHERATON GRAND HOTEL,
PUBLIC MARKET BAR (1230 J ST)**

Get together with friends and associates before heading to dinner and exploring Sacramento's lively restaurant and brewery scene.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

7:30 – 8:30 am

Networking Breakfast: **Ballroom A1, Level 2**

8:45 – 10 am

Closing General Session: **Ballroom A1, Level 2**

CLOSING GENERAL SESSION

Self-Administered CPR



Climb into the cockpit and discover three core elements of self-administered CPR through strategic storytelling and engaging and entertaining magic. Walk away knowing how to remain **critical** in your profession, the rewards of staying **persistent**, and how to **rally** peers for cohesive growth. Reed focuses on helping professionals communicate effectively to boost performance, increase decision making skills, and create optimal success.

REED "ROLLER" BARRETT, *Air Force Fighter Pilot, Magician, and Award-winning Speaker*



The American Public Power Association helps community-owned utilities deliver superior electric service – by advocating and advising on electricity policy, resilience, cybersecurity, grid operations, technology, trends, and training. Learn more at www.PublicPower.org.

APPA ACADEMY

AMERICAN PUBLIC
POWER ASSOCIATION

The APPA Academy is public power's complete resource for professional education and certification, helping you stay abreast of rapidly evolving technologies, regulations, and customer needs. Learn more about in-person, virtual, and on-demand events at www.PublicPower.org/Academy.

KEY FACTS

Credits and Evaluation

A link to an online survey about the conference will be emailed to attendees after the conference. You must complete this form to receive a certificate for continuing education credits (CEUs and PDHs). We appreciate your valuable feedback.

Presentations

A link to speakers' presentations will be emailed to attendees after the conference and will be made available to view for one month.

Antitrust Statement

Various state and federal laws prohibit the exchange of information among competitors regarding the matters pertaining to price, refusals to deal, markets division, tying relationships and other topics that might infringe upon antitrust laws and regulations. No such exchange or discussion will be tolerated during the meeting. A copy of the APPA's Statement of Compliance with the Antitrust Laws is available upon request.

Code of Conduct

Attendees of American Public Power Association meetings agree to abide by the APPA Code of Conduct. If attendees engage in unacceptable behavior as outlined in the Code of Conduct, APPA may take any action it deems appropriate, including but not limited to, expulsion from the current and future meetings, with no warning or refund.

Thanks to our sponsors for their generous support!

Learn more about our sponsors in the mobile app and visit them in Public Power NextTech Expo throughout the conference to discover how their products and services can help your organization succeed!

NETWORKING SPONSOR



ADVOCATE SPONSOR

The background of the poster is a night photograph of a large rocket standing vertically on the left side. A large, full moon is visible in the dark sky to the right of the rocket. The bottom of the image shows silhouettes of trees and several bright, glowing streetlights.

AMERICAN
PUBLIC POWER
ASSOCIATION
Powering Strong Communities

SAVE THE DATE

2026 Engineering & Operations Conference and Safety Summit

MARCH 29 – APRIL 1
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

PUBLIC POWER NEXTTECH EXPO VENDORS



EMPLOYEE OWNED