



2026 PAPUC Safety Conference

Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center · State College, Pennsylvania · September 9–10, 2026

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 – General Sessions

Time	Session	Presenter(s)	Room
7:30–8:30 AM	Breakfast & Networking	N/A	Deans Hall
8:30–8:35 AM	Introductions	Robert Horensky, PAPUC	President's Hall 1–3
8:35–8:45 AM	Opening Remarks	Stephen M. DeFrank, Chairman, PAPUC	President's Hall 1–3
8:45–9:30 AM	PHMSA Update and Cyber Security & Physical Security	Timothy Gaither, U.S. Department of Transportation	President's Hall 1–3
9:30–10:10 AM	Pipeline Impacts of Increased Electrical Transmission Loads (Reconductoring)	• Shane Finneran, DNV • Jim Warner, Consumers Energy	President's Hall 1–3
10:10–10:35 AM	BREAK	N/A	Deans Hall
10:35–11:15 AM	The Sense of Smell: Impact on Safety and Well-being in the Post-COVID-19 Era	Dr. Richard L. Doty, Professor Emeritus, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania and President, Sensorics International	President's Hall 1–3
11:15 AM–12:00 PM	Cybersecurity Panel	• Mike Holko, PAPUC (Moderator) • Chris Allwein, PA CyberCom • Ashley Bleacher, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Daniel Eliot, U.S. Dept. of Commerce • Derek Mueller, U.S. DHS • David Wood, U.S. DHS	President's Hall 1–3
12:00–1:15 PM	Lunch	N/A	President's Hall 1–3

Breakout Session A: Pipeline Safety

Time	Session	Presenter(s)	Room
1:15–1:45 PM	Pipeline Safety Update	Robert Horensky	President's Hall 1–3
1:45–3:00 PM	Advancing Gas Safety Through Early Leak Detection and Response	• Dennis Jarecke, GTI • Rick J. Trieste, Case Studies Con Ed	President's Hall 1–3
3:00–3:30 PM	BREAK	N/A	Deans Hall
3:30–4:00 PM	Supervisors – Findings and Best Practices	• Robert Biggard, PAPUC • Mike Chilek, PAPUC • Terri Cooper Smith, PAPUC	President's Hall 1–3
4:00–4:30 PM	Pipeline Safety Inspectors – PHMSA TQ, Mentoring and OJT Training	• Israel Gray, PAPUC • Peter Michaelson, PAPUC • Nick Nagele, PAPUC • Andrea Nash, PAPUC • Don Ontko, PAPUC	President's Hall 1–3
4:30 PM	Adjourn	—	President's Hall 1–3

Breakout Session B: Electric Safety

Time	Session	Presenter(s)	Room
1:15–2:00 PM	EDC Storm Response Best Practice Group	• John Van Zant, PAPUC (Moderator) • Lindsay Baxter, Duquesne Light Company • Nick Gray, PPL Electric Utilities • Clint McKinley, PAPUC	President's Hall 4
2:00–2:45 PM	PAPUC Audits: How It Works	• Evan Baker, PAPUC • Mike Flynn, PAPUC • Nathan Paul, PAPUC	President's Hall 4
2:45–3:15 PM	BREAK	N/A	Deans Hall
3:15–3:45 PM	The PAPUC's Bureau of Consumer Services: Handling Informal Utility-Related Complaints from Across the Commonwealth	• Sasha Berrier, PAPUC • Tim Clark, PAPUC	President's Hall 4
3:45–4:15 PM	Legislative Update	J.J. Livingston, PAPUC	President's Hall 4
4:15 PM	Adjourn	—	President's Hall 4

Thursday, September 10, 2026 - General Sessions

Time	Session	Presenter(s)	Room
7:30-8:30 AM	Breakfast & Networking	N/A	Deans Hall
8:30-9:15 AM	Damage Prevention	William Kiger, Pennsylvania One Call System	President's Hall 1-3
9:15-10:00 AM	Fatigue as a Human Factors Safety Risk	Dr. Jaime Levine, PhD., Institutes for Behavior Resources, Inc.,	President's Hall 1-3
10:00-10:30 AM	BREAK	N/A	Deans Hall
10:30-11:15 AM	Emerging UAS Technologies for Utility Infrastructure	Jimmy Dempsey, Overlay Aerials, Inc.	President's Hall 1-3
11:15-11:50 AM	Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency	Molly Dougherty, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency	President's Hall 1-3
11:50 AM-12:00 PM	Closing Remarks / Adjourn	Robert Horensky	President's Hall 1-3