

**SAFETY SUMMIT**

Sunday, March 26-Monday, March 27  
Room 301AB

**Sunday, March 26****8:15 am - 9:00 am**

## Safety Culture

*We all desire to have our entire staff on board to ensure a culture of safety. During this session, we will discuss how a few Zoos have successfully accomplished this.*

- Amber Acord, Senior Facilities & Grounds Manager, Akron Zoo
- Betsy Hall, Vice President for Guest Experience, Museum of Life and Science
- Geoffrey Cooke, Project Integration Manager, Disney's Animals, Science and Environment

**9:00 am – 9:40 am**

## Exhibit Design for Safety

*It seems like every year, zoos are building new buildings and animal habitats. What considerations need to be built into these spaces to ensure the safest possible environment?*

- Dave Ruhl, VP of Operations & Campus Planning, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
- Dan Miller, CLR Design
- Keith McClintock, SHR
- Rosey Masek-Block, PGAV Destinations

**9:40 am – 9:55 am**

## BREAK

**9:55 am – 11:10 am**

## Safety around PDAs

*We will be discussing the latest in safety and security when working with potentially deadly animals.*

- Dave Ruhl, VP of Operations & Campus Planning, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
- Katy Juliano, Animal Keeper: Great Cats and Bears, Smithsonian's National Zoo
- Lorena Munoz, Director of Husbandry, Santa Barbara Zoo
- Natalie Hoffman, Senior Keeper, Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens
- Erin McNally, Director of Crisis Response, GRAZE

**11:10 am – 11:55 am**

## Safety Townhall

*To conclude the morning, we will be having a panel-led discussion in regards to the mornings topics. This will be an interactive session where questions will be answered and topics discussed on a deeper level.*

**12:00 pm – 1:00 pm**

## LUNCH

**1:05 pm – 2:05 pm**

## Working in and Around Aquatic Exhibits

*Dive safety is an ever-evolving industry with many considerations including: regulatory requirements, hazard control strategies for guests/contractors/ VIPs, OSHA regulations, AZA accreditation standards, other consensus standards, rescue equipment, Emergency Action Plans, risk assessments, permits to work around water. Learn the current hot topics around water safety.*

- Nate Fague, Sr. Director of Safety & Security, Mystic Aquarium
- Tim Sampson, Curator, John Ball Zoo

**2:05 pm – 2:40 pm**

## Risk Mitigation Strategies

*Industry professionals will be discussing how you can evaluate your Zoo and Aquarium programs to make them as safe as possible. Get tips and success stories from facilities who have done this, and what AZA has to offer.*

- Steve Bauer, Director of Occupational Health & Safety, Denver Zoo
- Ken Frye, Director, Scovill Zoo

**2:40 pm – 3:10 pm**

## Hot Topics in safety for Veterinary workers and workplaces

*In this session members of the AZA Animal Health Committee will discuss animal care related hazards and mitigation strategies from the veterinary perspective.*

- Deidre Fontenot, Animal Health Operations Manager, Disney's Animals, Science and Environment

**3:10 pm – 3:25 pm**

## BREAK

**3:25 pm – 3:45 pm**

## Fortifying Zoo Safety and Security using Grants

*Zoo and Aquarium safety and security is an ever-evolving challenge. Learn how to think differently about what constitutes security/safety infrastructure that can be funded via grants.*

- Quaid Green: Safety/EMS Team Leader, Utah's Hogle Zoo

**3:45 pm – 4:15 pm**

## Intra-Zoo transports...Planning them safely

*Real-life examples of how we set-up an Incident Command System (ICS) for managing potentially dangerous animal transfers outside their primary enclosures: trips to the vet hospital, loading for departure and accepting new arrivals.*

- James Lowrey: Director of Risk Management, Oklahoma City Zoo & Botanical Gardens
- Kevin Drees, Senior Director of Animal Collections, Oklahoma City Zoo & Botanical Gardens

**4:15 pm – 4:45 pm**

## Break Out Session

*One of the most important parts of attending a conference is networking. We will be breaking up into groups where we will be discussing emergency response and preparedness topics for those genres.*

## Monday, March 27

### **8:15 am – 9:00 am**

Lessons Learned from Mother Nature

*The 2022 Hurricane season affected many facilities in different ways. Hear about how facilities banded together to help each other through it, and learn what Denver Zoo has learned from fires near their facility.*

- Julia Wagner, Executive Director, ZDR3
- Steve Bauer, Director of Occupational Health & Safety, Denver Zoo

### **9:00 am – 10:30 am**

Lessons Learned from Near Misses and Incidents

*Sometimes you see it on the news, sometimes social media, sometimes through the grapevine. In this session, we will share data regarding animal thefts/cage cuts, and you will hear from colleagues that were there when things went wrong. You will hear what they learned, and what you can do to be ready, or prevent these things at your facility.*

- Steve Bauer, Director of Occupational Health & Safety, Denver Zoo
- Rick Holzworth, Director of Support Services, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens
- Julia Wagner, Executive Director, ZDR3
- Maria Gallegos, Director, Health Safety & Security, Houston Zoo

### **10:30 am – 10:45 am**

BREAK

### **10:45 am – 11:15 am**

Close Encounters

*We try to prevent our staff from encountering potentially deadly animals face to face but what do we do when it happens anyway? In this session we will discuss examples of how you can train your staff on the best ways to respond to a terrifying close encounter.*

- Shanna Simpson, Animal Curator, Topeka Zoo and Conservation Center
- Erin McNally, Director of Crisis Response, GRAZE
- Josh Murrell, Safety and Compliance Officer, Contango ORE

### **11:15 am – 11:55 am**

Panel

*To conclude the morning, we will be having a panel-led discussion on how to adapt and improve on these important topics. This will be an interactive session welcoming questions and allowing us to discuss topics on a deeper level.*

### **12:00 pm – 1:00 pm**

LUNCH

### **1:05 pm – 1:45 pm**

Drills

*Every accredited Zoo and Aquarium is required to perform drills but too many missteps at this standard. In this session, we will be talking about how to implement successful drills.*

- Maria Gallegos, Director, Health Safety & Security, Houston Zoo
- Lynn Cox, Occupational Health & Safety Manager, Detroit Zoological Society

### **1:45 pm – 2:30 pm**

Active Shooter Preparedness

*Unfortunately, active assailant attacks are on the rise and our public spaces can be vulnerable. Fostering a relationship with local emergency personnel is imperative. Learn what some Zoos are doing to help their staff prepare for the worst.*

- Shanna Simpson, Animal Curator, Topeka Zoo and Conservation Center
- Steve Bauer, Director of Occupational Health & Safety, Denver Zoo

**2:30 pm – 2:45 pm BREAK**

**2:45 pm – 4:00 pm**

Firearms

*The Safety Committee has executed very successful Firearms webinars in 2022. We will be building onto the webinars by discussing more about Firearms teams, accreditation standards, drills and more at this informative session.*

- Dave Ruhl, VP of Operations & Campus Planning, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
- Jeff Landry, Zoological Risk Manager, Hogle Zoo
- Adam Fink, Zoological Manager, Oakland Zoo
- Ashleigh Kandrak, Animal Curator, Lion Country Safari
- Tim Sampson, Curator, John Ball Zoo
- Andy Blaschik, Owner and Lead instructor, Tactical Firearms Academy

**4:00 pm – 4:40 pm**

Break Out Session

*One of the most important parts of attending a conference is networking. We will be breaking up into groups where we will be discussing emergency response and preparedness topics specific for those regions.*

**4:40 pm – 5:00 pm**

Wrap-Up

*The Safety Summit will close with a recap of what we learned and some updates on what's next for the safety committee.*