



# EMS CONFERENCE 2024

**QUO VADIS: FUTURE OF FIRE SAFETY AND THE EMERGENCY SERVICES - INNOVATIONS AND SOLUTIONS**

**Exciting and informative updated programme now available:**

**REGISTER TO ATTEND AND  
EARN CPD POINTS**

**DON'T DELAY**

**BOOK TODAY**

**Go to:** [www.safety1st.co.za/events/](http://www.safety1st.co.za/events/)

**or**

**phone:** 083 266 6662

**or email:** [debbie@safety1st.co.za](mailto:debbie@safety1st.co.za)

**Delegate fees: R6900**

**21-22  
October 2024**

**Venue:**

Dräger Auditorium  
Sandton

**Tel:**

+27 83 266 6662

**Email:**

[debbie@safety1st.co.za](mailto:debbie@safety1st.co.za)

**Websites:**

[www.safety1st.co.za](http://www.safety1st.co.za)

[www.emsguide.co.za](http://www.emsguide.co.za)

Organisers



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SAESI



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**EMS GUIDE**



# EMS CONFERENCE 2024

**QUO VADIS: FUTURE OF FIRE SAFETY AND THE EMERGENCY SERVICES - INNOVATIONS AND SOLUTIONS**

## **THE FUTURE OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES - *keeping up with the modern era***

Anyone involved in the emergency services, fire fighting and fire safety cannot afford to miss this conference which will focus on the future of this vital service.

Over the past few years we have witnessed significant transformations, bringing about a new era in technology. Embracing this new technology is a key to the success of all emergency services

Until recently, words such as lithium batteries, artificial intelligence, drones, Apps were not part of every day vocabulary, but now they cannot be ignored. They are integrated into the working life of fire fighters and other emergency workers.

### ***Some presentations of the conference will examine:***

- The challenges of fighting lithium battery fires - are they pitfalls of new technology?
- Can AI be used in fire prevention and fire fighting?
- Drones and their uses. Are fire fighters properly trained to operate them?
- Are fire fighters adequately trained to fight fires in modern building structures?
- How can emergency services mitigate the potential catastrophes of climate change?

### ***A summary of some other presentations***

- Another change to the emergency service landscape has been the growth of the private fire services. Why and how did they become part of the South African landscape? Are they here to stay? This will be discussed in detail.
- Emergency service workers' tasks are physically onerous and stressful, impacting on their mental well being. Their ability to effectively carry out their activities effectively will be compromised if they are not properly cared for. This impacts not only themselves and their families, but on entire communities as well. Attendees will also learn how to implement wellness programmes and how to recognise and mitigate against stress and burnout.
- The future of SAESI has been a subject of discussion among its members over the past couple of years. This will be clarified.

**SCROLL DOWN TO SEE THE FULL PROGRAMME WITH ALL PRESENTATIONS**

After 2 days of back-to-back presentations and networking, attendees will leave with a wider knowledge, understanding and improved capabilities of what is in store for them in an era when rapidly changing technology cannot be avoided.

**Register today to attend this exciting and informative 2-day event - 21-22 October 2024**

## REGISTER TODAY:

Dates: 21-22 October 2024

Price per delegate: **R6900**

go to: [www.safety1st.co.za/events/](http://www.safety1st.co.za/events/)

or

phone: 083 266 6662

or

email: [debbie@safety1st.co.za](mailto:debbie@safety1st.co.za)

CPD Points will be awarded  
to attendees

The number of points will  
depend on the professional  
organisations that the  
attendee belongs to

### Delegate fee **includes:**

- Two (2) days attendance at the conference  
21st October 2024: Teas, lunch, refreshments and cocktail snacks  
22nd October 2024: Teas, braai lunch and refreshments
- Goodie bag with exciting surprises
- Competitions and raffles with exciting prizes

### Delegate fee **excludes:**

Accommodation and travel is not included in the delegate fee.  
Reduced accommodation rates have been negotiated with a nearby  
hotel. Please discuss with the organisers.

### To register:

visit <https://www.safety1st.co.za/events/>  
or complete the attached application form

or phone: + 27 83 266 6662

or email: [debbie@safety1st.co.za](mailto:debbie@safety1st.co.za)

### Terms and conditions:

**Payment** Payment is required no later than 14 days from date of invoice. No delegate will be allowed to attend if payment is not received before the conference date.

**Substitutions:** Substitutions are allowed, but their names must be submitted to the organisers before the event.

**Cancellations:** Written cancellations must be received more than 21 working days prior to the date of the event. Any cancellation will be liable for 50% of the event fee. Failure to cancel, or any cancellations received 21 working days or less prior to the event date will be liable for the full fee.

**Non attendance:** Please note, this does not entitle you to a refund.

**Alterations to advertised programme:** Speakers and topics will be confirmed before the event, however circumstances beyond the control of the organisers may result in substitutions, alterations or cancellations of topics or speakers. The organisers reserve the right to alter or modify the advertised speakers or topic if necessary.

**The conference fee entitles delegates to the following:** Welcome teas, morning teas, lunches 21 and 22 October, conference material and delegate goodie bags. The conference fee excludes travel and accommodation.

**Liability:** The Safety First Association will not be liable for any costs, damages or expenses incurred by delegates, exhibitors, sponsors as a result of cancellation.



# EMS CONFERENCE 2024

**QUO VADIS: FUTURE OF FIRE SAFETY AND THE EMERGENCY SERVICES - INNOVATIONS AND SOLUTIONS**

## PROGRAMME

### Day 1 - Monday **21** October 2024

Time	Topic	Speaker
07:00-07:45	Registration & welcome teas	
07:45-08:00	Welcome/OSH regulations	Dräger
1. 08:00-08:40	Keynote: Navigating the emergency services to success during current difficult times	Jonathan De Villiers
2. 08:40-09:20	Keynote: SAESI: past, present and plans for the future	Theresa Geldenhuys
3. 09:20-10:00	Lessons learned from incidents, rescues/recoveries	Mannas Fourie
10:00-10:30	Tea break	
4. 10:30-11:00	Johannesburg inner city fires in hijacked buildings - Lessons learned	Andries Mucavele
5. 11:00-11:30	Privatised fire services - a necessity in today's age or just a nice-to-have?	De Wet Engelbrecht
6. 11:30-12:00	Improving medical emergency efficiency through Apps and emerging technology	Saul Behrmann
7. 12:00-12:30	Prevent fire deaths and disasters through community education programmes	Fulufhelo Hendrick Sibara
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
8. 13:30-14:00	Modernisation of the emergency services	Louis Pretorius
9. 14:00-14:30	The first responder vs The fire investigator	Saritha Wolff
10. 14:30-15:00	Team building through employee wellness and recognising first responder burnout	Riaan Janse van Vuuren
15:00-15:30	Tea break	
11. 15:30-16:00	Ignore the law at your peril. What you need to know.	Mziwakhe Nhlapo
12. 16:00-16:30	Inspections, compliance and fire fighter competencies in the 21st century	Tibor Szana
17:30-19:00	Cocktail snacks and demonstrations	

### Day 2 - Tuesday **22** October 2024

Time	Topic	Speaker
08:00-08:10	Welcome	
13. 08:10-08:50	Strategic Roadmap 2030: Shaping the future of the fire services	Roland Hendricks
14. 08:50-09:30	Climate change and wildland fires: A potential catastrophe	Trevor Abrahams
15. 09:30-10:00	The transition to non-fluorinated fire fighting foams - fraught with challenges	Trevor Fiford
10:00-10:30	Tea break	
16. 10:30-11:00	Building winning teams for USAR effectiveness	Thabo Charles Mabaso
17. 11:00-11:30	From first aid to frontline: The evolution of EMS training	Debbi Groome
18. 11:30-12:00	Implement effective risk assessments: Save more than lives	Marius Atterbury
19. 12:00-12:30	Impact of social media platforms on first responders	To be confirmed
12:00-13:00	Lunch	
20. 13:00-13:30	From prediction to response: AI's critical role in fire fighting and fire prevention	Linda Botha
21. 13:30-14:00	Containing lithium fires	Duncan Boyes
22. 14:00-14:30	The blame game: Ignoring fires hazards	Leighton Bennett
14:30-15:00	Closing, wrap-up, competition winners	Leighton Bennett

Please note: Speakers and topics in the programme may change before the event. Circumstances beyond the control of the organisers may result in substitutions, alterations or cancellations of topics or speakers. The organisers reserve the right to alter or modify the advertised speakers or topic if necessary.



# SPEAKERS - PRESENTATIONS



**Jonathan De Villiers**

Vastly experienced in Disaster Management, Fire Protection and Emergency Response (to name a few), over the past 4 decades, in SA as well as internationally.

*Presentation title: Navigating the emergency services to success during current difficult times.*

*Abstract: Are the emergency services receiving the attention they deserve? Current challenges and viable solutions will be explored.*



**Thabo Charles Mabaso**

Deputy Chief: Public Information and Liaison Officer City of Tshwane Emergency Services Department

*Presentation title: Team building for USAR effectiveness*

*Abstract: Effective response through excellent team building at local and international search and rescue missions. Case studies to be discussed will include the disasters in Pakistan, Haiti, Philippines, and Japan as well as the devastating floods in Kwa-Zulu Natal.*



**Trevor Abrahams**

Managing Director, (WoF)

*Presentation title: Climate change and wildland fires: A potential catastrophe facing South Africa*

*Abstract: National average temperatures in South Africa have surged at twice the pace of global temperatures posing a grave scenario. What response is needed amidst increasing temperatures, fire catastrophes, intense extreme wildland fires, escalating death tolls and devastated communities?*



**Fulufhelo Hendrick Sibara**

Vhembe District Municipality, Senior Divisional Officer, (Assistant Fire Chief), Fire Safety Section Head (SDO)

*Presentation title: Prevent fire deaths through community education programmes*

*Abstract: Public education, an important feature of any fire department educates communities in fire prevention. Education blitzes if properly performed will help prevent tragedies and unnecessary fire deaths.*



**Louis Pretorius**

Chief Fire Officer - Fidelity SecureFire, Fidelity Services Group.

*Presentation title: Modernisation of EMS services and challenges.*

*Abstract: The emergence of the private fire services in South Africa is a growing phenomenon that needs to be discussed, including the reasons for their existence, their relevance and their professionalism.*



**Mziwakhe Nhlapo**

CEO of MMAT SHEC & ESG Training & Consulting Services, specialising in compensation matters.

*Presentation title: Ignore the law at your peril.*

*Abstract: Emergency Services can find themselves falling foul of the law if they fail to protect employees and assets both at incidents and at the workplace.*



**Linda Botha**

CEO Skills Train Distribution

*Presentation title: From prediction to response: AI's critical role in fire fighting and fire prevention*

*Abstract: Fires can be prevented and fought through the rapid and challenging evolution of artificial intelligence (AI) such as early detection, optimized resource allocation, fire spread studies, training and simulation.*



**Saritha Wolff**

Technical Consultant: Fire Safety, Accu-SHERQ Risk Consultants

*Presentation title: First responder vs Fire Inspections*

*Abstract: The challenges that fire investigators are faced with when attending fire scenes after the fire brigades have left including unnecessary damage caused by fire fighters stampeding through the damage, or the use of excessive water.*



**Saul Behrmann**

CEO Medi-Response

*Presentation title: Improving medical emergency efficiency through Apps and emerging technology*



**Leighton Bennett**

Chairman Safety First Association

*Presentation title: Fire blame game. Perils of ignoring fire hazards.*



**Andries Mucavele**

Chief, Johannesburg Emergency Management Services

*Presentation title:*

*Johannesburg inner city fires in hijacked buildings - Lessons learned*



**De Wet Engelbrecht**

CEO Fire Ops SA

*Presentation title: Privatised fire services - a necessity in today's age or just a nice-to-have?*

*Abstract: What we bring to the table.*

# SPEAKERS - PRESENTATIONS



**Marius Atterbury**,  
CEO, Fire Protection Association  
of Southern Africa  
*Presentation title: The  
importance of an effective risk  
assessment*  
*Abstract: The road to being  
prepared for fires and other  
emergencies, including possible  
legislative improvements.*



**Duncan Boyes**  
Chairman Centa Holdings  
*Presentation title: Containing  
lithium fires*  
*Abstract: A pitfall of modern  
technology is lithium-ion battery  
fires. Several circumstances can  
lead to them exploding or  
catching alight such as vehicle  
accidents.. Their extinguishment  
poses a risk to emergency first  
responders. Knowing how to  
contain them effectively and safely  
is critical to fire fighters.*



**Riaan Janse van Vuuren**  
MD Elpis Training and  
Development. Retired Manager:  
Sol Plaatje Emergency Services  
*Presentation title: Effective team  
building through employee  
wellness*  
*Abstract: For emergency service  
teams to be successful,  
employee wellness programmes  
must be introduced into every  
department. Healthy employees  
will be more motivated and have  
a positive attitude.*



**Tibor Szana**  
Retired Chief Inspector DEL  
*Presentation title: Inspections,  
compliance and fire fighter  
competencies in the 21st century*  
*Abstract: Observations from an  
inspector's perspective of fire  
fighter competencies. Are they  
adequately trained in  
technological advances such as  
drones? Are they adequately  
trained to control fires in new  
building structures with soaring  
heights and novel materials?*



**Theresa Geldenhuys**  
President SAESI  
Keynote speaker  
*Presentation title: SAESI, Past,  
Present and Future*



**Roland Hendricks**  
Director, NDMC Fire Services  
*Presentation title: Strategic  
Roadmap 2030: Shaping the  
future of the fire services*



**Debbi Groome**  
Program Quality Practitioner,  
Boston City Campus  
*Presentation title: From first aid  
to frontline: The evolution of  
EMS training*



**Mannas Fourie**  
Chief Executive Officer, Mines  
Rescue Services  
*Presentation title: Lessons  
learned from incidents,  
rescues/recoveries*



**Trevor Fiford**  
Director JOIFF and IFHC  
*Presentation title: The transition  
to non-fluorinated fire fighting  
foams - fraught with challenges*

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