

2027
CONFERENCE



Leading. Protecting. Influencing.

12-13 MAY 2027
Johannesburg

www.safety1st.co.za





Hosted by: Safety First Association
Dates: 12-13 May 2027
Venue: Johannesburg. Venue to be confirmed
Theme: *Leading. Protecting. Influencing*
Contact: Email: debbie@safety1st.co.za
Whatsapp: +27 83 266 6662

Women are playing an increasingly important role across the occupational health and safety and related professions in South Africa. They are occupational health practitioners, occupational hygienists, safety professionals, SHEQ managers, inspectors, engineers, researchers, consultants, business leaders, trainers and decision-makers.

Despite this growing contribution, there is a need for a dedicated platform that brings women from across the occupational health and safety sector together to share knowledge, experiences and ideas, build professional networks and discuss the changing face of workplace health and safety.

*The **Women in OSH Conference 2027** is a new, stand-alone professional conference dedicated to women working in, influencing and shaping occupational health and safety.*

The conference will provide a platform for meaningful discussion around the issues affecting women in the profession, while also addressing the wider occupational health and safety challenges facing women in today's workplace.

This groundbreaking event will bring together women from different sectors, disciplines and levels of experience, creating opportunities for learning, collaboration, mentorship and professional development.





*L*eading. *P*rotecting. *I*nfluencing.

The theme reflects three important dimensions of women's contribution to occupational health and safety.

LEADING

Women are increasingly taking on leadership and decision-making roles within OSH. The conference will explore leadership, career development, influence, mentorship and the journey from practitioner to senior decision-maker.

PROTECTING

Protection remains at the heart of occupational health and safety.

The conference will examine the physical, occupational and psychosocial risks experienced by women at work, including workplace design, occupational hygiene, PPE, occupational health and emerging hazards.

INFLUENCING

Women are influencing the future of OSH through innovation, technology, research, policy, education and practical experience.

The conference will provide a platform for women to share ideas and therefore influence the direction of the profession.



Proposed presentations

Women are increasingly represented across the OSH profession in industries traditionally dominated by men. However, many of the challenges faced by women at work remain insufficiently discussed within mainstream occupational health and safety forums. To highlight these challenges, presentations will include:

- PPE designed and fitted for women
- Occupational exposure and occupational hygiene
- Workplace ergonomics and design
- Pregnancy and reproductive health
- Menopause and women's health at work
- Mental health and psychosocial risks
- Women working in high-risk environments
- Career progression and leadership
- Representation in senior decision-making
- Mentoring and professional development
- Technology and the future workplace
- The changing nature of work
- Challenges faced in traditionally male-dominated industries such as mining, construction, manufacturing, engineering, energy, transport

Aims

The **Women in OSH Conference** aims to establish an annual platform that:

- Celebrates the contribution of women to occupational health and safety.
- Provides opportunities for professional learning and development.
- Creates meaningful networking and mentoring opportunities.
- Highlights women who are leading and influencing the profession.
- Addresses occupational health and safety issues that affect women in particular.
- Encourages greater participation of women in OSH leadership and decision-making.
- Provides a platform for discussion about the future of the profession.
- Connects women across different industries and areas of expertise.
- Encourages the next generation of women to enter and remain in the OSH profession.



7 target audiences

The conference will be aimed at women working across the occupational health and safety environment, including:

- Occupational health and safety professionals
- Occupational hygienists
- Occupational health practitioners
- Safety managers
- SHEQ professionals
- OHS inspectors and regulators
- Occupational medicine professionals
- Ergonomists
- Risk professionals
- Engineers
- Safety consultants
- Safety trainers
- Researchers and academics
- HR and employee wellbeing professionals
- PPE and safety-equipment specialists
- Senior executives and business leaders
- Women entering the OSH profession
- Students and young professionals
- Men who support women's advancement in occupational health and safety.



Delegate registrations

Early bird registration until 28 February 2027

Safety First Association members:	R5,500
Safety First Association non-members:	R6,500

Registrations from 1st March 2027

Safety First Association members:	R7,000
Safety First Association non-members:	R8,000

(Above figures exclude VAT)

Sponsorship & Exhibition opportunities

The organisers welcome participation and guidance in identifying relevant areas of national priority, speakers and stakeholders.

The conference seeks sponsorships and partnerships with organisations that share a commitment to occupational health and safety, women's professional development, workplace protection and innovation, through:

- Conference sponsorship
- Speaker sponsorship
- Networking events
- Exhibition space
- Product demonstrations
- PPE showcases
- Technology demonstrations



Contact

Debbie Myer

Mobile/WhatsApp: 083 266 6662

Email: debbie@safety1st.co.za

www.safety1st.co.za



Going forward

The **Women in OSH Conference** seeks to create a professional platform that recognises the important and growing contribution of women to occupational health and safety while addressing the challenges and opportunities that will shape the future of the profession.

It is intended to be an annual gathering where women can learn, connect, lead and influence.

Most importantly, it will create a space where women's experiences and expertise are not simply included in the wider OSH conversation, but are given the opportunity to help shape that conversation.

Outcomes

The conference aims to help women advance in OSH beyond the two-day event:

- The foundation of a stronger professional network for women in OSH.
- Greater visibility for women working in the profession.
- Increased opportunities for mentoring and career development.
- Greater awareness of occupational risks affecting women.
- Improved discussion around gender-responsive workplace protection.
- Stronger connections between industry, government, academia and professional organisations.
- Platform for emerging women leaders.
- Identification of issues requiring further research, discussion or action.
- Establishment of an annual **Women in OSH** platform in South Africa.