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Safety Leadership – Letting Go of Logic and Ego

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ABSTRACT

As leaders, we don’t want to show weakness—it can undermine our credibility. We make a point of knowing the answers, enforcing rules, getting things done, and making sure people know who is in charge.

But what if the very approach that has brought you success is also the approach that keeps you—and your people—stuck? Stuck in a paradigm where safety is seen as a roadblock rather than a driver of success.

Organisations invest heavily in rules, procedures, training, and equipment, believing that these will ensure people stay safe. Yet, ask the workers on the job, and many will tell you that these measures frustrate them, slow them down, and encourage shortcuts as the only way to get the job done.

In this session, we will challenge executive leaders to shift their thinking. We will introduce you to your ego, to the logic that shapes your decisions, and to the risks this creates. More importantly, we will explore a new leadership paradigm—one where safety is not imposed but embraced. A future where your people are safe not because you tell them to be, but because they believe it is the right thing to do.

Do your people truly know how much you care about them? How can you demonstrate that in everyday interactions? When leaders are willing to be curious about what could be, rather than certain about what is, they unlock the key to stronger engagement, trust, and safety ownership.

By understanding how the brain works—and how logic is often overridden by emotion—you will gain deeper insight into both your people and your own leadership. Letting go of who you are and what you know might just be the breakthrough you’ve been looking for.

Now is the time to shape the future of safety leadership. Are you ready?

KEY WORDS

**Leadership**

**Safety**

**Paradigm Shift**

**Engagement & Trust**

**Risk**

**Emotional vs. Logical Thinking**

BIOGRAPHY

Nada is passionate about human behaviour and cultural change programs that drive high performance while minimising harm. With 25 years of global experience in oil, gas, mining, and power, she began as an offshore engineer with ExxonMobil and later led the Australasia HSE team. Holding degrees in Psychology and NeuroLeadership, she has advised companies like BHP, Orica, and DuluxGroup. Notably, she coached Brunel’s crew in the 2016 Volvo Ocean Race. Outside work, she enjoys hiking, ocean swimming, and Japanese whisky

Conference Program

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