



NAFE 2026 Winter Conference

Friday, January 16, 2026 — New Orleans

MORNING

7:30AM Registration Desk Open until 12:00 PM

8:00AM Board of Directors Meeting (Open to All Members)

10:30 AM Meet and Depart for Tour

11:15 AM Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority–East (FPA-E) Surge Barrier Tour

This guided tour provides an overview of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) protecting Greater New Orleans, with a focus on the Surge Barrier completed in 2013—the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' largest design-build civil works project. The tour begins with an introduction to FPA-E and the post-Katrina flood protection system, followed by discussion of the Surge Barrier's design, construction, and key components. Participants will gain insight into how the system is operated and maintained to manage regional flood risk.

3:00 PM ASTM E58 Meeting (Open to All Members)

AFTERNOON

6:00 PM Welcome Reception (Open to All Conference Attendees)

7:00 PM Dinner (Registration Required)



NAFE 2026 Winter Conference Technical Program

Saturday, January 17, 2026 — New Orleans

7:00 AM Breakfast and Networking

7:15 AM President's Remarks and Introductions

MORNING TRACK

8:00 AM Brian Eubanks, PE (NAFE #962S), Garrett Ryan, PE (NAFE #1125M), and Derek Patoskie, PE (NAFE #1312A) — **"To Prove Or Not to Prove: Different Levels of Forensic Investigation"**

9:00 AM Jahan Rasty, PhD, PE (NAFE #1152S), Matthew Mills, PE (NAFE #1199A), Luke Blackwell (NAFE #1275A), and Cameron Rasty (NAFE #1367 Student Member) — **"Material Selection Error in Body Armor Design: Forensic Investigation of Bullet Penetration in Steel Armor Plates"**

10:00 AM Morning Break | Sign Up for Dinner Groups

10:15 AM Rebecca Bowman, Esq, PE (NAFE #1153M), Randal L. Exley, PE, and Thomas McCloskey — **"Challenging the Abuse of "or Equivalent" in Residential Foundation Connections"**

11:15 AM Michael Stall, PE (NAFE #955M) — **"Forensic Engineering Evaluation and Quantification of Hurricane Damage to a Commercial Building"**

End of morning sessions

12:30 PM Lunch and General Membership Meeting | Sign Up for Dinner Groups

AFTERNOON TRACK

1:30 PM Ziad Azzi, PhD, PE (NAFE #1343M) — **"Wind Damage Vs. Storm Surge Damage: A Case Study from Hurricane Helene"**

2:30 PM Chad Williams, PE (NAFE #937M) — **"Impact of Granule Loss on the Fire Resistance of Asphalt Shingles"**

3:30 PM Afternoon Break | Sign Up for Dinner Groups

3:45 PM Brian Eubanks, PE (NAFE #962S), Noel Janacek, PE (NAFE #1375M), Garrett Ryan, PE (NAFE #1125M), and Joseph Roberts, PE (NAFE #1354A) — **"Beyond the Building Code: Design and Forensic Failure Analysis of Retaining Walls"**

4:45PM Bart Kemper, PE (NAFE #965F) — **"Examining Failure Modes of the TITAN Submersible Hull"**

5:45 PM End of Day 1 Sessions | Lobby Bar Meet Up | Dinner on Your Own

*The NAFE Technical Program is brought to you by the NAFE Journal Staff and Editorial Board
David J. Icové, PhD, PE, DFE, Editor-in-Chief and Ellen Parson, Managing Editor*



NAFE 2026 Winter Conference

Sunday, January 18, 2026 — New Orleans

Educational Program

7:00 AM Breakfast and Networking

7:15 AM President's Remarks and Introductions

MORNING TRACK

8:00 AM Steven Batzer, PE (NAFE #677F) — "From the Front Lines of Forensic Engineering"

9:00 AM Lori Cox, PE (NAFE #1302S) — "The Hidden Load: Mental Health Challenges in Forensic Engineering"

10:00 AM Morning Break | Vote for Favorite Saturday Technical Session

10:15 AM Carlos Morales (NAFE #1380) and Gerald Zadikoff, PE (NAFE #751M) — "Seawall Collapse and Mitigation"

11:15 AM Rich Kovarsky, PE (NAFE #1209S) — "Water Losses and NFPA 921"

End of morning sessions

12:15 PM Lunch | Register for NAFE Summer 2026

AFTERNOON TRACK

1:15 PM Bart Kemper, PE (NAFE #965F) as lead, with co-hosts for each one-hour part — Forensic Engineering Panel Discussion on the TITAN Disaster

Full panel:

- Bart Kemper, PE: Team lead, structural analysis, acrylics, VVUQ
- Tom Whalen: LCDR, USCG Investigator & Co-Host
- Krista Kemper: Charter member of the World Submarine Organization. Submarine industry issues, review of contracts other business issues with OceanGate
- William Emblom, PhD: Structural analysis
- Mitch Maifeld, PE: Electrical engineering and computers
- Alexis San Miguel: Life support and human factors
- Mike Gordon, PE: Peer Review.

3:15 PM Afternoon Break | Register for NAFE Winter 2026

3:30 PM (Continued) Forensic Engineering Panel Discussion on the TITAN Disaster

4:30 PM End of Day 2 Sessions and Closing Remarks | Vote for Favorite Sunday Technical Session

The NAFE Educational Program is brought to you by the NAFE Education and Conference Committees led by Zohaib A. Alvi and Daniel P. Couture.