



WESTERN UNDERGROUND COMMITTEE

<https://westernunderground.org>

Fall 2026 Conference

Welcome Reception, October 20, 2026

Conference, October 20 – 23, 2026

Tempe Mission Palms Hotel

60 East 5th Street, Tempe, AZ, 85281

<https://www.hyatt.com>

All conference sessions to be held at the host hotel

www.westernunderground.org

Conference Hosted by: Arizona Public Service (APS)



Platinum Sponsor & Welcome Reception Host



Learning Session Sponsors



Wherever Wood Is Used™



by Marmon Utility | a Berkshire Hathaway Company





WESTERN UNDERGROUND COMMITTEE
GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION
October 20-23, 2026



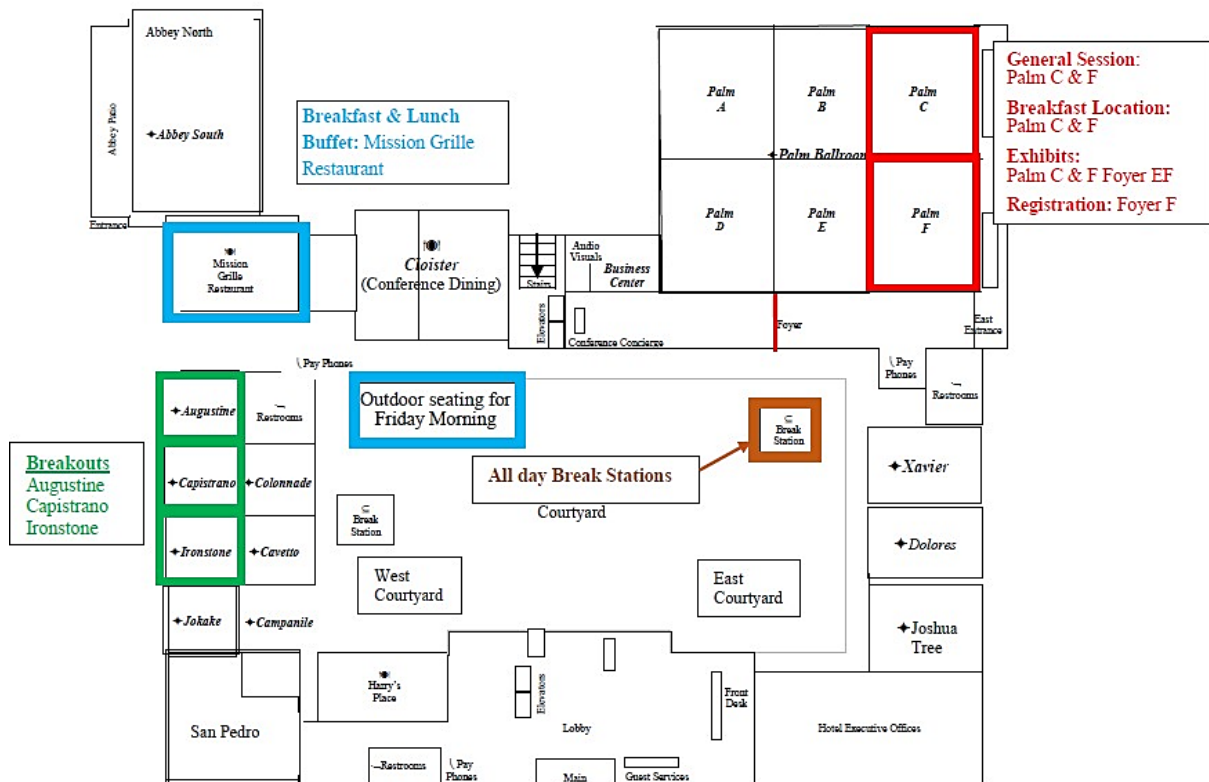
Welcome Reception

Tempe Mission Palms Hotel
60 East 5th Street, Tempe, AZ, 85281
Poolside Terrace

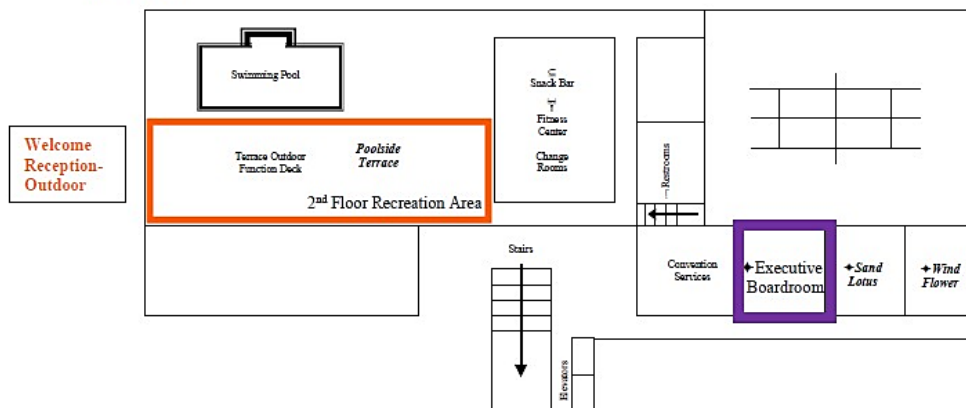
Conference Layout

Tempe Mission Palms Hotel
Western Underground Conference

1st Floor



2nd Floor





WESTERN UNDERGROUND COMMITTEE
GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION
October 20-23, 2026



CONFERENCE EVENTS:

Tuesday Activities:

3:00pm – 5:00pm WUC Board Meeting
5:00pm – 7:00pm Welcome Reception
Hosted by FallTech

Wednesday Activities:

6:45am – 7:30am Registration and Breakfast Buffet

7:30am – 8:30am Breakfast Learning Session
Hosted by Genics, Utility Members ONLY
8:30am – 9:15am General Opening Session
9:15am – 10:15am Platinum Sponsor, **FallTech**
Utility Members ONLY
10:15am – 10:30am BREAK – All Day Break Station Available
10:30am – 11:30am Safety Presentation: LATTC Lineman College
11:30am – 11:45am Grab Lunch and Prepare for Lunch Learning Session
11:45am – 12:45pm Lunch Learning Session
Hosted by Marmon Utility, Utility Members ONLY
12:45pm – 2:15pm Mutual Problems, Closed Door
Utility Members ONLY
2:15pm – 2:30pm BREAK – All Day Break Station Available
2:30pm – 4:00pm Subcommittee Breakout Meetings
5:00pm – 8:00pm Expo: Manufacturer Showcase and Reception

Thursday Activities:

7:00am – 8:00am Registration and Breakfast Buffet

8:00am – 9:00am Breakfast Learning Session
Hosted by TE Connectivity, Utility Members ONLY
9:15am – 9:30am BREAK – All Day Break Station Available
9:30am – 11:00am Mutual Problems, Closed Door
Utility Members ONLY
11:00am – 11:30am Grab Lunch and Prepare for Lunch Learning Session
11:30am – 12:30pm Lunch Learning Session
Hosted by Prysmian, Utility Members ONLY
12:30pm – 1:00pm BREAK – All Day Break Station Available
1:00pm – 1:30pm Load Busses for Technical Tour
1:30pm – 4:00pm Technical Tour at **Chase Stadium**
6:00pm – 9:00pm WUC Fellowship Dinner: Culinary Dropout
Utility Members ONLY

Friday Activities:

8:00am – 9:00am Breakfast and Networking
Utility Members ONLY
9:00am – 9:05am Moment of Silence for Fallen Peers
9:05am – 9:15am WUC Executive Board
9:15am – 11:30am Mutual Problems, Closed Door
Utility Members ONLY
11:30am Conference and Meeting Adjourn

LOCATION

Executive Board Room
Poolside Terrace

Palm C/F Lobby and Mission
Grille Restaurant
Palm C/F

Palm C/F
Palm C/F

East Courtyard Break Station
Palm C/F
Mission Grille Restaurant
Palm C/F

Palm C/F

East Courtyard Break Station
Various
Palm C/F

Palm C/F Lobby and Mission
Grille Restaurant
Palm C/F

East Courtyard Break Station
Palm C/F

Mission Grille Restaurant
Palm C/F

East Courtyard Break Station
East Entrance Outside Palm C/F
401 E Jefferson St
149 S Farmer Avenue

Mission Grille Restaurant and
West Courtyard
Palm C/F
Palm C/F
Palm C/F



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Tuesday, October 20

- 3:00pm – 5:00pm: **WUC Board Meeting**
- 5:00pm – 7:00pm: **Welcome Reception**
 - Hosted by Platinum Sponsor **FallTech**
 - Website: <https://www.falltech.com>

**Executive Board Room
Poolside Terrace**

Wednesday, October 21

- 6:45am – 7:30am: **Registration and Breakfast Buffet**
- 7:30am – 8:30am: **Breakfast Learning Session for Utility Members ONLY**
 - **Hosted by Genics**
 - **Presentation: Introduction to Genics and Product Suite**
 - Presenter: John Davis
 - Description: Genics and their product suite focuses on fire mitigation and wood preservation technologies. Given the threat of increased wildfire vulnerability and the rising cost of infrastructure replacement, Genics offers solutions that extend the service life of wood utility poles.
 - Website: <https://genicsinc.com/>
- 8:30am – 9:15am: **General Opening Session**
 - Tom Fieldse, T&D Methods and Governance, Southern California Edison, WUC Chairperson
 - Welcome Remarks and Recognition of WUC Board
 - Bobby DeLuis, San Deigo Gas and Electric, WUC Treasurer/Vice Chair
 - Member Self Introductions and Years of Service
 - Tony Tewelis, Senior Vice President, Energy Delivery and Large Customer Projects, Arizona Public Service Company (APS)
 - Tony Tewelis is Senior Vice President, Energy Delivery and Large Customer Projects, Arizona Public Service Company (APS). Tewelis is responsible for safe, reliable and efficient operation of the company's energy delivery function, which includes planning, engineering, construction, operations, and maintenance, of the transmission and distribution systems, as well as the customer-to-grid solutions team. He has considerable experience in advanced grid technologies, advanced operational platforms, and integration of renewables and distributed energy resources.
 - Host Utility Welcome, APS Overview, APS Today
- 9:15am – 10:15am: **Platinum Sponsor, FallTech for Utility Members Only**
 - **Presentation: Fall Tech Overview**
 - Presenter: Armando Garcia
 - Description: FallTech will provide an overview of the company, highlight key credentials and expertise, and share important updates on 2026 fall protection standards and regulations. The presentation will also explore FallTech's education and training services before concluding with a summary of key takeaways.
 - Website: <https://www.falltech.com/>
- 10:15am – 10:30am: **BREAK – All Day Break Station Available**

**Palm C/F Lobby and
Mission Grille Restaurant
Palm C/F**

Palm C/F

Palm C/F

East Courtyard Break Station



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- 10:30am – 11:30am: **Safety Presentation: LATTC Lineman College** **Palm C/F**
 - Safety Chairperson: Robert Torres, Southern California Edison, Safety Committee Chair
 - **Presentation: Discuss workforce development initiatives, and showcase the training and education being provided to prepare future line workers for the utility industry**
 - Presenter: Anthony Sylvers and Roxanne Romo
 - Website: <https://www.lattc.edu/>
- 11:30am – 11:45am: **Grab Lunch and prepare for Lunch Learning Session** **Mission Grille Restaurant**
for Utility Members ONLY
- 11:45am – 12:45pm: **Lunch Learning Session for Utility Members ONLY** **Palm C/F**
 - **Hosted by Marmon Utility**
 - **Presentation: Overhead Covered Conductor as a Wildfire Mitigation Strategy**
 - Presenter: Kristin Van De Walle, Regional Vice President of Sales
 - Description: The session will focus on the value of covered wire systems and how they can be used as an effective tool to mitigate wildfires and enhance grid reliability for both distribution and transmission applications. Key takeaways include understanding the differences between XLPE and HDPE conductor jackets and how spacer cable and tree wire systems improve reliability compared to bare wire.
 - Website: <https://marmonutility.com>
- 12:45pm – 2:15pm: **Mutual Problems, Closed Door for Utility Members ONLY** **Palm C/F**
 - Questions reviewed in the order received.
 - Questions can be sent to JGOLO2@IDAHOPOWER.COM
- 2:15pm – 2:30pm: **BREAK – All Day Break Station Available** **East Courtyard Break Station**

SUBCOMMITTEE BREAK-OUT MEETINGS

- 2:30pm – 4:00pm: **Subcommittee Breakout Meetings**
 - **Subcommittee 1 – Operations** **Augustine Room**
Chairperson: Harry Nelson, Lineman Foreman, Imperial District Irrigation
 - **Presentation 1: Leadership and Succession Planning for T&D Industries**
 - Presenter: Max Fuentes
 - Description: This presentation will explore key strategies for effective leadership development and succession planning within the T&D utility industry. Attendees will gain insights into building strong leadership pipelines, identifying high-potential talent, and implementing practical frameworks to ensure organizational continuity. By addressing industry-specific challenges and best practices, the session aims to empower
 - **Presentation 2: IND.T Presentation**
 - Presenter: Michael Borden, Sales Director
 - Description: Grid visibility and the goal of obtaining actionable intelligence through sensing technology.
 - **Subcommittee 2&3 – Engineering & Substructures** **Capistrano Room**
Chairperson: Steven Robles, T&D Standards Sr. Electrical Engineering Tech, Riverside Public Utilities



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▪ **Presentation 1: Ocotillo–Lincoln Street 230 kV Restoration**

- Presenters: Danielle Anderson, Senior Engineer, APS, and Ron Roberts, Senior Engineer, Underground Engineering Design, APS
- Description: Engineering lessons learned, emergency response, and building future resilience.

▪ **Presentation 2: Advanced Conductors**

- Presenter: Gilbert Brito, Engineer, Overhead Engineering Design, APS. Nearly 3 years at APS in Overhead Engineering & Design. Involved in Advanced Conductor Research, High Temperature Line Operations, Increase Line Capacity and EHV Line Design. Previously Worked as Mechanical Design and Test Engineer for High Voltage Batteries on Electric Vehicles. Train and Competes in Martial Arts: Muay Thai, Jiu Jitsu, and MMA
- Description: Discuss how APS has been involved in selecting and using Advanced Conductors into their Transmission System. Focus on a 10 Mile 230 kV project where Advanced Conductor will be used in both green and brown field scenarios. Discuss the cost savings and new challenges of using Advanced Conductor in Green Field Projects

○ **Subcommittee 5 – Planning**

Ironstone Room

Chairperson: Jun Golo, Idaho Power Company

▪ **Presentation 1: Medium Voltage DER Metering Requirements for Primary-Service Customers**

- Presenters: Danielle Anderson, Senior Engineer, APS, and Ron Roberts, Senior Engineer, Underground Engineering Design, APS
- Description: Engineering lessons learned, emergency response, and building future resilience.

▪ **Presentation 2:**

- Presenters: Mike Dyer and James Robbins, SRP
- Description: Provide an update of the DOE minimum efficiencies for distribution transformers, which becomes effective in 2029.

- 5:00pm – 8:00pm: Expo: **Manufacturer Showcase and Reception**

Palm C/F



WESTERN UNDERGROUND COMMITTEE
MANUFACTURER EXPO
October 20-23, 2026



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LEARNING SESSION SPONSORS



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by Marmon Utility | a Berkshire Hathaway Company



BREAK STATION SPONSORS



VENDORS



BORDER STATES
Supply Chain Solutions™





**WESTERN UNDERGROUND COMMITTEE
MANUFACTURER EXPO
October 20-23, 2026**

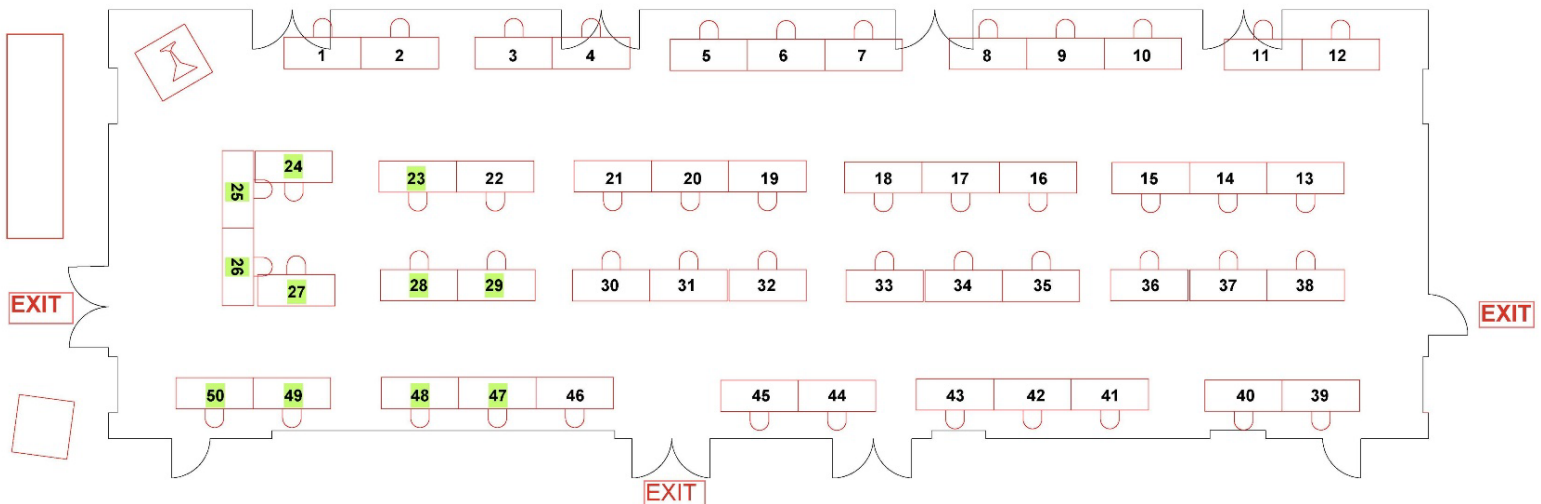


Booth Assignments & Event Floorplan

NOTE: Table assignments may be adjusted until event time at the discretion of the WUC Executive Board.

Booth #	Vendor
25	*FallTech (Platinum Sponsor)
26	*FallTech (Platinum Sponsor)
27	*FallTech (Platinum Sponsor)
50	*Genics (Learning Session Sponsor)
49	*Marmon Utility (Learning Session Sponsor)
23	*Priority Wire Cable (Snack Sponsor)
28	*Pyrsman (Learning Session Sponsor)
29	*Pyrsman (Learning Session Sponsor)
47	*TE Connectivity (Learning Session Sponsor)
4	ABB
14	ABB
7	Alumaform
21	Bell Lumber & Pole
3	Border States
2	Burndy
22	Cal Coast Power
37	Concast
20	EJ
45	Electromark
36	Exo
35	G&W Electric
46	Gorman Co.
34	GridWrap, Inc.

41	Hastings Hot Line Tools
1	Hubbell Utility Solutions
33	Huskie Tools
15	Kaddas Enterprises
40	MA Hanson & Son, Inc
42	McAvoy-Markham Engineering & Sales
13	Nexus
16	nVent
8	Pacific Power Reps
5	Pacific Utilities
9	Polecrete Stabilizer
18	Power System Products
32	Preferred Sales
11	Resilient Structures
31	Richards Manufacturing
30	Scott Manufacturing
6	Smart Grid Solutions
44	The Durham Company
19	The Okonite Company
43	The VON Corporation
12	Utility Solutions, Inc
17	Wesco
10	Western Utility/ Grid Craft





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Thursday, October 22

- 7:00am – 8:00am: **Registration and Breakfast Buffet** **Palm C/F Lobby and Mission Grille Restaurant**
- 8:00am – 9:00am: **Breakfast Learning Session for Utility Members ONLY** **Palm C/F**
 - **Hosted by TE Connectivity**
 - **Presentation: Product Line Introduction and Possible Live Demo**
 - Presenter: Landon Martens, Regional Account Manager
 - Description: TE Connectivity will provide an overview of Ampact BAT and ILD solutions, as well as Smart Grid Solutions. Following the presentations, a live demonstration of the Ampact BAT and ILD will be shown if time permits.
 - Website: <https://www.te.com/en/home.html>
- 9:15am – 9:30am: **BREAK – All Day Break Station Available** **East Courtyard Break Station**
- 9:30am – 11:00am: **Mutual Problems, Closed Door for Utility Members ONLY** **Palm C/F**
 - Questions reviewed in the order received.
 - Questions can be sent to JGOLO2@IDAHOPOWER.COM
- 11:00am – 11:30am: **Grab Lunch and prepare for Lunch Learning Session for Utility Members ONLY** **Mission Grille Restaurant**
- 11:30am – 12:30pm: **Lunch Learning Session for Utility Members ONLY** **Palm C/F**
 - **Hosted by Prysmian**
 - **Presentation: Innovations in Transmission Infrastructure**
 - Presenter: Tatianna Wawrzynski, Overhead Transmission Innovation & Strategy Manager
 - Description: Transmission is evolving, and utilities have options for getting greater performance from the grid. Join Prysmian for a look at what's new in advanced conductor technology, E3X and the robotic coating application, and the innovations helping utilities increase capacity and improve performance on existing transmission infrastructure. Prysmian will cover what's happening in the industry now, what's gaining momentum, and what may be coming next.
 - Website: <https://www.prysmian.com/en>
- 12:30pm – 1:00pm: **BREAK – All Day Break Station Available** **East Courtyard Break Station**
- 1:00pm – 4:00pm: **Technical Tour, Chase Stadium, <https://www.mlb.com>** **East Entrance Outside Palm C/F**
 - **Technical Tour Schedule of Events**
 - 12:30pm – 1:00pm Busses Arrive at Tempe Mission Palms for Boarding
 - 1:00pm – 1:30pm Load Busses for Technical Tour
 - 1:30pm Busses Depart for Chase Stadium
 - 2:00pm – 3:30pm Busses Arrive at Chase Stadium for Tour
 - 3:30pm Busses Depart Chase Stadium
 - 4:00pm Busses Arrive at Tempe Mission Palms





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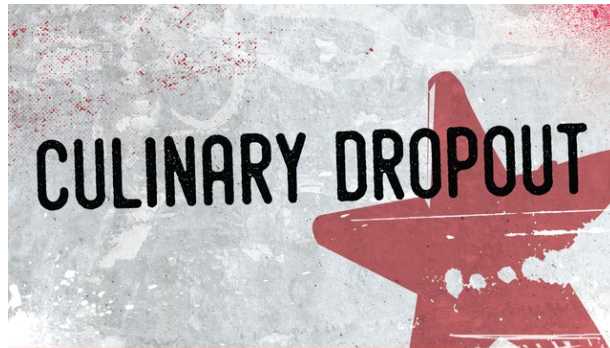
WUC FELLOWSHIP DINNER
DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS MAGICAL EVENING OF NETWORKING AND FUN!

Thursday Evening, October 22nd, 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Culinary Dropout

149 S Farmer Ave, Tempe, AZ 85281

Utility Members Only



Zach Thomas

Thu Oct 22, 7:00PM





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Friday, October 23

- 8:00am – 9:00am: Breakfast and Networking for Utility Members ONLY
 - 9:00am – 9:05am: **Moment of Silence for Fallen Comrades**
 - 9:05am – 9:15am: **WUC Executive Board - Treasurer Report and Bylaw Discussion**
 - 9:15am – 11:30am: **Mutual Problems, Closed Door for Utility Members ONLY**
 - Questions reviewed in the order received.
 - Questions can be sent to JGOLO2@IDAHOPOWER.COM
 - 11:30am: **Conference and Meeting Adjourn**
- Mission Grille Restaurant
and West Courtyard**
Palm C/F
Palm C/F
Palm C/F

**Utility hosts are always needed for future conference planning.
If you are interested in details, please see a member of the WUC Executive Board.
Hosting is a way to showcase the great work being done by your utility.**