



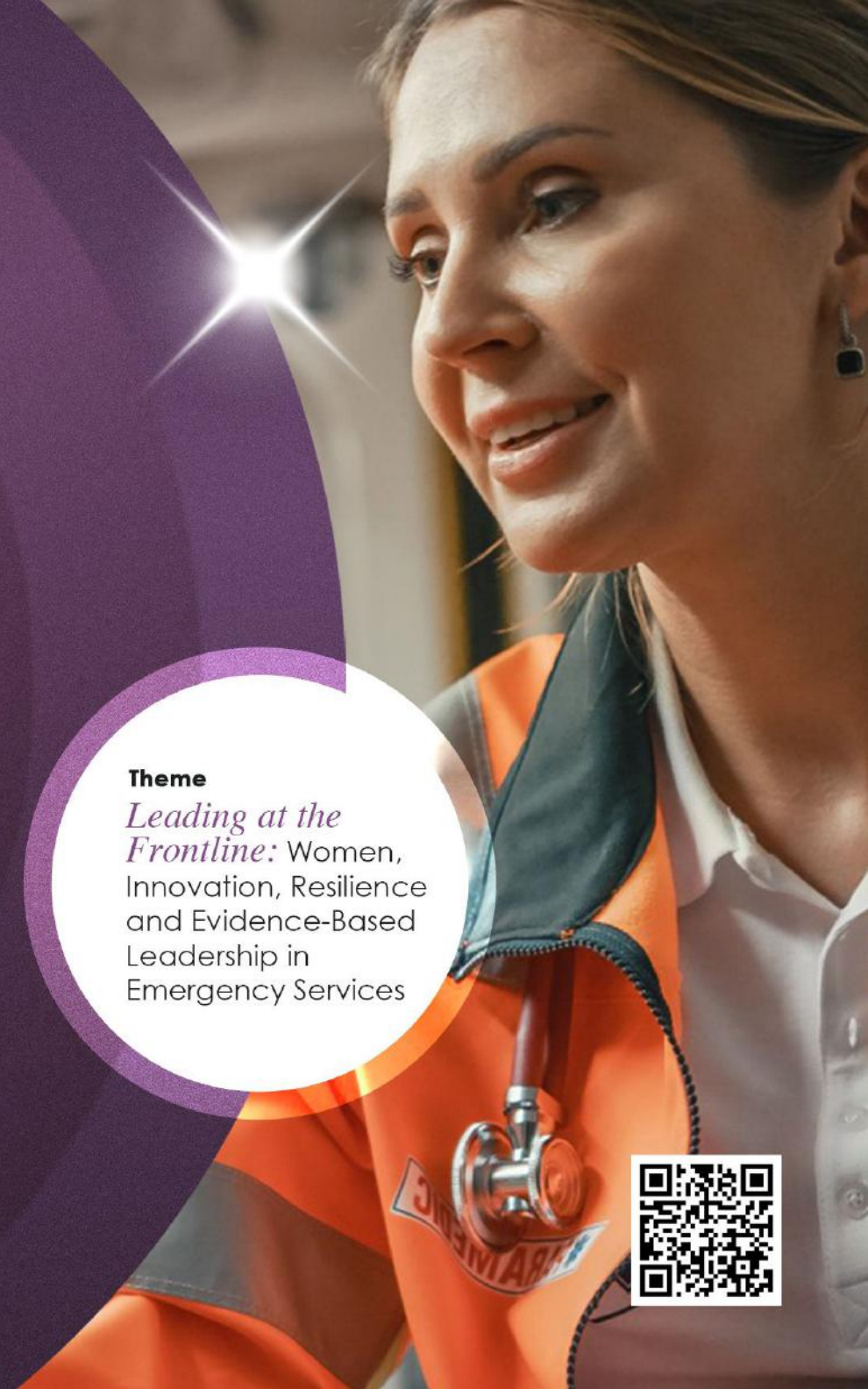
# 5th Annual Women in EMS, Disaster Management & Fire Services Leadership Conference 2026

# EXP

06-07 August, 2026

The Maslow Hotel, Sandton, Johannesburg

**Theme**  
*Leading at the  
Frontline: Women,  
Innovation, Resilience  
and Evidence-Based  
Leadership in  
Emergency Services*



## Conference Positioning & Purpose

The **5th Annual Women in EMS, Disaster Management & Fire Services Leadership Conference 2026** represents a strategic evolution of the platform established over the past four years. Building on the depth of leadership discourse from the standalone Women in Emergency Services Conference and the operational breadth of the EMS & Fire Expo, the 2026 edition integrates policy, practice, technology, research, and lived experience into one powerful, future-focused programme.

### This flagship conference is designed to:

- 01** Strengthen women's leadership pipelines across EMS, fire, disaster risk reduction, law enforcement, defence, healthcare, and community safety
- 02** Translate global and African research insights into practical, frontline decision-making.
- 03** Address the human dimension of emergency work wellbeing, trauma, inclusion, and sustainability

**04** Showcase innovation, AI, data, and climate intelligence shaping emergency response.

**05** Create a unified platform for public sector, private sector, academia, NGOs, and uniformed services

The conference is co-located with the EMS & Fire Expo 2026, enabling delegates to connect leadership dialogue directly with tools, technology, and operational solutions.



**R5 999.99** Per Delegate



**R6 999.99** Per Delegate  
with Gala Dinner

## Research & Evidence Lens (Embedded Across the Programme)

The 2026 conference is intentionally research-informed, drawing on:

- 01** Disaster Risk Reduction and resilience research (UNDRR-aligned principles)
- 02** Studies on women's leadership effectiveness in crisis and high-reliability organisations
- 03** Climate risk, wildfire, and multi-hazard research relevant to Southern Africa
- 04** Occupational mental health and trauma research for first responders
- 05** Emerging evidence on AI, real-time data, and predictive analytics in emergency response.

Research insights are embedded into keynotes, panels, and leadership simulations – ensuring the programme is not only inspirational, but **credible, defensible, and actionable.**



## Key Outcomes for Delegates

- 01** Evidence-based leadership tools for crisis environments
- 02** Practical strategies for resilience, wellbeing & longevity
- 03** Exposure to cutting-edge EMS & fire technologies
- 04** Strong cross-sector and intergovernmental networks
- 05** Inspiration grounded in real research and lived experience

This 5th Annual Conference is not just a gathering – it is a leadership intervention for the future of emergency services in Africa.

**Focus:** Empowering women leaders, innovators, and professionals in emergency medical and fire services.

**Key Features:**

- Leadership development sessions
- Gender inclusivity and equity dialogues
- Mentorship programs
- Success stories
- Networking for women in EMS, Firefighting, Police and rescue services



## Who Should Attend?

This conference is designed for women and allies across the full emergency ecosystem:

EMS, fire & rescue, disaster management professionals

Uniformed services: police, defence, municipal enforcement

Healthcare leaders, matrons, trauma & emergency clinicians

Policy-makers, regulators, SOEs & municipalities

Academia, researchers, training institutions

Private security, NGOs, community safety leaders

Equipment manufacturers, innovators & solution providers

Disaster risk managers, climate, environmental specialists



# FIRE EXPO Exhibition Themes & Areas **Co-located Event**

Fire Fighting Zone

**01**



Rescue Services Zone

**02**



Civil Protection and  
Disaster Management Zone

**03**



Fire Prevention  
and Safety Zone

**04**



Protective Equipment  
and Apparel Zone

**05**



Communications and Control  
Center Solutions Zone

**06**



Product Demonstrations  
Arena

**07**



# Day 01: Women Leading At The Frontline - Command, Courage & Systems Leadership

Time	Session	Session Info / Facilitators
<b>08:00-08:45</b>	Registration & Networking Breakfast	
<b>08:45-09:00</b>	Official Opening & Conference Overview	Setting the tone: why women's leadership is mission-critical for resilient emergency systems.
<b>09:00-10:00</b>	Opening Plenary: Women's Leadership in Crisis – What the Evidence Tells Us	Research-informed keynote exploring: Why diverse leadership improves crisis outcomes. Lessons from global disasters, pandemics, and complex emergencies - Translating leadership research into operational command environments
<b>10:00-11:00</b>	Uniformed Women of Impact – Leadership from the Frontline	Senior women leaders from: EMS - Police Services - Defence / Armed Forces sharing real-world command experiences, decision-making under pressure, and institutional barriers.
<b>11:00-13:00</b>	Expo Open   Live Demonstrations & Guided Walkabouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fire, EMS &amp; rescue technologies</li><li>• Command &amp; control systems</li><li>• PPE, vehicles, medical &amp; safety equipment</li></ul>

**13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH AND NETWORKING**



<b>14:00-15:00</b>	Municipal & Urban Safety Leadership	Women leaders from: EMPD, JMPD, TMPD, CTMP, DMPS. Focus areas: Urban risk, public order, community trust - Integrated emergency & law enforcement response
<b>15:00-15:30</b>	Panel Discussion	Women in Uniform: Leadership, Legitimacy & Breaking Institutional Barriers
<b>15:30 - 16:00 REFRESHMENT BREAK \ EXPO OPEN</b>		
<b>16:00-16:45</b>	Professional Development Masterclass	Command Presence, Career Progression & Executive Readiness for Women in High-Risk Roles
<b>18:30-21:00</b>	Women in EMS & Emergency Services Gala Dinner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition of excellence</li> <li>• Leadership awards</li> <li>• Inter-sector networking</li> </ul>



## Day 02: Innovation, Care & Community Resilience

Time	Session	Session Info / Facilitators
<b>08:00-08:30</b>	Morning Coffee & Networking	
<b>08:30-09:00</b>	Opening Reflection	Leadership resilience, purpose, and service.
<b>09:00-10:00</b>	Frontline & Community Safety Leadership	Speakers from: Firefighting services, Private security, Volunteer & humanitarian EMS  Themes: Community protection, Volunteerism & surge capacity, Ethical leadership in emergencies
<b>10:00-11:00</b>	Climate, Environment & Disaster Risk Spotlight	Research-driven talks on: Wildfires, floods & climate-induced disasters, Women's leadership in environmental emergency response, Community based disaster risk reduction models
<b>11:00-13:00</b>	Expo Open   Speed Networking & Live Demos	

**13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH AND NETWORKING**



<b>14:00-14:45</b>	Leadership, Education & Research Session	Academia & leadership institutes present: Research on women in emergency services, Skills pathways & leadership development frameworks, Bridging the gap between research and practice
<b>14:45-15:30</b>	Healthcare, Trauma & Pre-Hospital Leadership	Focus: Trauma systems, Pre-hospital to hospital coordination, Women leading clinical excellence under pressure
<b>15:30-16:15</b>	Panel Discussion	Women at the Heart of Care, Safety & Community Resilience
<b>16:15-16:30</b>	Closing Remarks & Future Outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic priorities for 2027</li> <li>• Strengthening continental collaboration</li> </ul>



