



SUMMARY OF NFA'S RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Safety Culture and Workplace Accidents

NFA's research on safety culture and workplace accidents contributes to the national objective of reducing the number of workplace accidents and promoting a strong safety culture. This is a key theme in the national strategy for occupational health research and in the tripartite agreement on occupational health and safety efforts 2021–2030.



Overall Objectives

NFA has four overarching goals for its research on safety culture and workplace accidents:

- 1 Identify the causes of workplace accidents by:**
 - Investigating why certain groups of employees are particularly vulnerable to workplace accidents, and why some types of workplace accidents occur more frequently than others.
 - Exploring a potential link between changes in sectors, managerial competencies, as well as technological and cultural conditions, and the risk of experiencing a workplace accident.
- 2 Generate new knowledge on safety culture and accident prevention by:**
 - Testing and evaluating practical tools to enhance proactive occupational health and safety efforts in workplaces through intervention research.
 - Examining how companies can build a strong safety culture - e.g. by developing safety climate, employee involvement, and a systematic approach to occupational health and safety - based on the principles: Earlier, Higher, and Broader.
- 3 Identify new risks and trends in the working environment by:**
 - Investigating the impact on occupational health and safety when companies use subcontractors with long value chains and/or rely on international labor.
 - Working to establish research in the areas inclusion, green transition, climate, new organisational forms, and their implications for workplace safety culture.
- 4 Expand research-based knowledge on digitalisation and occupational health and safety efforts by:**
 - Studying how especially new technologies such as AI affect the working environment both positively and negatively, enabling companies, social partners, and legislators to respond to the challenges.
 - Conducting intervention research in areas such as generative AI, surveillance technologies, platform work, virtual design technologies, safety technologies, and apps (e.g., NFA's Safety Observer app).

Priority Themes

NFA will prioritise the following themes in its research from 2025–2028:

Theme 1 **Causes of** **workplace accidents**

This theme involves the systematic investigation of the underlying contributing factors to workplace accidents. The goal is to propose effective preventive measures to be examined under Theme 2.

We will investigate why some groups of employees are particularly at risk, and why certain types of accidents occur more often. This includes e.g. research on the connections between changes in sectors, management competencies, technological and cultural conditions, and the risks of workplace accidents.

Theme 2 **Safety culture and prevention of** **workplace accidents**

We will e.g. explore how internal and external tools in occupational health and safety efforts can contribute to a strong safety culture and their effects on challenges in the working environment.

This includes testing and evaluating practical tools to improve proactive occupational health and safety practices and thereby improve workplace safety and prevent accidents.



Theme 3 **New risks and** **trends in working life**

Green transition, digitalisation, inclusion, and diversity. The labour market and working life in Denmark are constantly reshaping in response to global and societal challenges.

We will investigate how this development affects employees' safety and health in occupations where new working methods are required, or where there is still insufficient knowledge about specific risks and regulatory possibilities.

Theme 4 **Digitalisation and occupational** **health and safety work**

Digital technologies - including AI - are becoming increasingly prevalent in Danish workplaces. This is accompanied by a variety of assumptions about the implications for work, the labour market, and occupational health and safety.

We will explore how especially new technologies such as AI, automation, and smart personal protective equipment affect the working environment, so that companies, social partners, and legislators can address the challenges.

