



The role of safety observations in safety management (SafeObs)

Research project presentation
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Background

- Safety observations have long been an important tool in safety work at workplaces
- They are used to report faults and defects that may cause risk or hazard to safety or health (cf. Occupational Safety and Health Act 738/2002, section 19)
- Various benefits are pursued, safety observations have potential to e.g.,
 - Produce proactive information for safety management
 - Reduce accidents at work
 - Act as a predictive measure
 - Increase and maintain safety-related attentiveness and hazard identification skills
 - Support employee participation in safety work
 - Develop safety culture
 - Complement risk assessment
- However, many issues raise questions in the practical implementation of safety observations and more research is also needed



Objectives and results

Objectives

- 1. Form an understanding of the safety observation process
- 2. Identify and describe problems and good practices related to the safety observation process
- 3. Find out what information can be obtained by analyzing safety observations
 - Information obtained, links to safety, utilization, including positive observations
- 4. Produce guidelines and practices for the implementation of the safety observation process
- ➤ The research produces a model for the implementation of safety observations. The model considers key stages, problems and benefits.



Phases and preliminary schedule

SPRING 2024 **AUTUMN 2024** SPRING 2025 **AUTUMN 2025** SPRING 2026 Phase 1: Launching a project Phase 2: Organization-specific development projects Phase 3: Understanding of the safety Literature observation process and problems and Documents practices related Phase 4: Analysis of safety observation and other safety-related data Literature Questionnaire Workshops Documents Interviews Phase 5: Construction of a model and guidance for Observation the implementation of safety observation process Phase 6: Analysis of research data as a whole and final reporting Phase 7: Project management and steering group Phase 8: Communication



Research project information

- Schedule: 1.2.2024-31.5.2026
- Major funding: Finnish Work Environment Fund
- Research group
 - The Centre for Safety Management and Engineering (CSME), Industrial Engineering and Management, Tampere University
 - Noora Nenonen
 - Johanna Pulkkinen
 - Maria Lindholm
 - Jouni Kivistö-Rahnasto
 - https://research.tuni.fi/safety-en/

- Participant organizations
 - Neste Oyj
 - SSAB Europe Oy
 - Tampere University
 - Telinekataja Oy
 - VR-Group Oyj
- Other cooperation organizations
 - Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes)
 - LocalTapiola
 - The Centre for Occupational Safety