



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM

Title of Study: Assessment of Partners-OHS Tools for Improving Alberta Workplace Safety

Contact Information

Principal Investigator: Dr. Lianne M. Lefsrud

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You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you take part, Dr. Lianne Lefsrud is available to answer any questions about this.

You can copy this consent for your records.

What is the reason for this study?

In this research we are trying to solve a very difficult puzzle. While overall workplace accidents and injuries have been declining over the past 30 years, unfortunately, the rate of serious injuries and fatalities (SIFs) have not. Why is this the case? Working with partners like you in high-hazard industries such as mining, construction, oil and gas, and manufacturing, we are examining factors that are normally given less attention. These are the human, group, and organizational factors that contribute to accidents and injuries rather than technical factors related to tools, machines, equipment, and work processes. While technical causes are important, in this study we are focused on a variety of safety-related human factors such as expressed attitudes, concerns, and competencies as well as team-related factors such as conflict, resilience, and trust. The overall purpose is to learn, so that together, we can make workplaces safer.

Why am I being asked to take part in this research study?

You are being asked to participate because your safety-related conversations, observations, and experiences on-the-job are relevant and matter! Every day, you and your coworkers see, understand, and deal with the realities of doing a dangerous job safely. That makes you an expert, and someone we want to hear from.

What will I be asked to do?

To participate in this study, you will be asked to complete a short survey asking about your perceptions and experiences in the workplace. You will also be asked to answer some questions about your personality and demographic information. You are not obliged to answer

any questions you do not wish to answer, and may decide to withdraw at any time. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

With your consent, study information will be securely stored to help our research.

What are the risks and discomforts?

We do not expect any health risks or discomforts. It is not possible to know all risks that may happen in a study. However, we have taken all reasonable safeguards to minimize any known risks to you. If we discover something in this research that may change your willingness to participate, we will tell you about these findings.

What are the benefits to me?

You will not benefit directly from the study, except for making your employer and your work environment safer. Besides improving the long-term safety of your workplace, these interventions will (hopefully!) also improve your shorter-term psychological safety - ensuring an appropriate risk tolerance of your supervisors and teammates, more timely sharing of information, and better hazard identification and controls in safety conversations.

Do I have to take part in the study?

Being in this study is your choice. No one at your company will know if you chose to participate (or not). If you would like to complete an alternative activity while others are completing the survey, you will be given the option to when you open the survey link. The activity is expected to take about the same amount of time as completing the survey and involves reading a short safety article and providing some feedback about its content. If you decide to be in the study, you can change your mind and stop or withdraw (some or all) of your responses within two weeks. After that point we cannot remove you from the study because your data will be combined at the workgroup and organizational levels. To withdraw from the study please contact Dr. Lianne Lefsrud at 780-951-3455 or lefsrud@ualberta.ca

Will I be paid to be in the research?

No, you will not be paid extra to participate in this research.

Will my information be kept private?

Yes. During this study we will do everything we can to make sure that all information you provide is kept private. No information relating to this study that includes identifying information will be released outside of the researcher's office or published by the researchers unless you give us your express permission. Your employer will never see your individual responses and findings will only be shared in aggregate form (e.g., 80% of people think this, this factor is related to safety outcomes of teams). In rare situations, however, we might be required by law to release your personal information so we cannot guarantee absolute privacy. However, we will make every legal effort to make sure that your information is kept private.

After the study is done, we will still need to securely store your data that was collected as part of the study on a password protected repository, to facilitate re-use of the data by approved researchers. At the University of Alberta, we keep data stored for a minimum of 5 years after the end of the study. Any personal information (i.e., your organization, supervisor, hometown) that could identify you will be removed or changed prior to sharing study data with other researchers. Any researcher who wants to use this data must have the new project reviewed by an ethics board and sign an agreement ensuring your confidentiality and restricting data

use only to the approved project. Your data may be linked with other data for research purposes only to increase the usefulness of the data, as subject to scientific and ethical oversight as mentioned above.

What if I have questions?

If you have any questions about the research now or later, please contact:
Dr. Lianne M. Lefsrud, 780-951-3455 or lefsrud@ualberta.ca.

If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant, you may contact the University of Alberta Research Ethics Office at reoffice@ualberta.ca or 780-492-2615 and quote Ethics ID Pro0067927. This office is independent of the study investigators.

This study is being sponsored by federal funding – Mitacs and NSERC, the Alberta Mine Safety Association (AMSA), Energy Safety Canada (ESC), Alberta Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), and WorkSafeBC. The University and Dr. Lefsrud are getting money from the study sponsor to cover the costs of doing this study. You are entitled to request any details concerning this compensation from the Principal Investigator.

How do I indicate my agreement to be in this study?

By clicking this consent, you understand:

- That you have read the above information and have had anything that you do not understand explained to you to your satisfaction.
- That you will be taking part in a research study.
- That you may freely leave the research study at any time.
- That you do not waive your legal rights by being in the study
- That the legal and professional obligations of the investigators and involved institutions are not changed by your taking part in this study.
- That you agree to the data being stored as part of a data repository (where applicable).

☒ **I CONSENT**

Date

SIGNATURE OF PERSON OBTAINING CONSENT



Dr. Lianne Lefsrud, P.Eng.
780-951-3455

A copy of this consent form has been saved on this application, for you to keep for your records and reference.