

**The NIOSH Traumatic Injury Research and Prevention Program  
Evidence Package**

**March 2007**



## Preface

In 2005, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) requested that the National Academies (NA) undertake a review of NIOSH research programs with respect to their relevance, impact, and future direction. One of the programs scheduled for review was the Traumatic Injury (TI) Research Program.

Since the creation of NIOSH in 1970, work-related traumatic injuries have slowly gained stature among Institute priorities. At its inception, NIOSH largely adopted the organizational structure and activities of its predecessor agency, the Bureau of Occupational Safety and Health (BOSH), which resulted in an early Institute focus upon toxic exposures and occupational illnesses. In the 1970s, the Institute consolidated its fragmented, decentralized TI research efforts into the Division of Safety Research. In the 1980s, severe traumatic occupational injuries comprised one of the NIOSH “Top Ten”—i.e., the ten leading occupational safety and health problems. In the 1990s, traumatic injury was included with 20 other priority areas under the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) initiative.

Over the years, the TI Program has evolved into an important “cross-cutting” research program in both the recently launched NIOSH Program Portfolio Matrix Management Initiative and the industry-sector-based NORA 2 effort, which is intended to guide the nation’s occupational safety and health research agenda for the next decade. The TI Program has sought to ensure its relevance and impact through:

- A multidisciplinary public health-based approach
- Reliance on data as a principal program driver
- Innovative programs (which will be spelled out and described later) such as NTOF, FACE, and the Alaska Field Station
- A collaborative approach to research and prevention via active multi-sector partnerships, and
- Innovations in targeted dissemination, technology transfer, and other “research-to-practice” efforts.

Because the TI has historically been a learning and adaptive program, we welcome the NA review, and the objective, expert insight it promises to bring to bear upon the evidence presented herein. We see this review as an opportunity to look impartially and realistically upon where we’ve been and what we’ve done, and to ultimately improve the TI Program. Improvements in the relevance and impact of the TI Program hold the potential to reduce risks, injuries, and deaths among workers in the U.S. and around the globe.

Nancy A. Stout, Ed.D.  
Director, NIOSH Division of Safety Research  
Manager, NIOSH TI Program



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