Safety through Science

The CSRA uses scientific methods to create defendable and reliable construction safety knowledge. We are the construction industry’s shared safety R&D function.

Dr. Matthew Hallowell
Endowed Professor and President’s Teaching Scholar
University of Colorado
What is the CSRA?

We are an alliance of industry leaders and experienced scientists who are focused on transformative construction safety research. The CSRA is a forum where we:

- Propose and test new safety ideas and innovations
- Invite industry members to actively participate in safety research
- Explore the efficacy of new safety technologies
- Network and share best practices
- Shape the next generation of safety researchers and practitioners

Why the CSRA?

The rate of serious injuries and fatalities has plateaued in the construction industry for nearly 20 years. The mission of the CSRA is to assemble industry leaders and world-class researchers to conduct collaborative research that eliminates these unacceptable life-changing events.

What makes the Alliance unique?

We are the only industry-funded research group focused exclusively on advancing the science of safety. Our industry-academic teams work together to understand industry needs, conduct field-based research in real-world settings, collect and analyze data, and share results.

What are the expectations of research team members?

Because we conduct field-based research, our research teams typically involve the active collaboration of 10-15 industry practitioners and 2-3 academics. Our teams meet face-to-face 3 to 4 times per year to discuss ongoing CSRA research, identify data sources, conduct field trials, interpret findings, create implementation resources, and present results. This experience is an excellent development opportunity for emerging leaders and a mechanism for senior professionals to share their knowledge.
What types of research do you conduct?

We conduct safety research that passes the rigors of scientific peer-review. Our research often requires objective data, field experiments, advanced statistics, and experimentation. Rather than ‘flavor-of-the-day’ safety or pseudo-science, we are working to create fundamental knowledge that sustains the tests of time.

What other activities does the CSRA perform?

Although our main objective is to conduct research, we also provide networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities via our communities of practice.

Who is involved?

Our membership represents multiple construction sectors, including buildings; electric power generation and delivery; oil and gas; and infrastructure. Our members employ over 100,000 workers across 170 countries.

How is the CSRA funded?

The CSRA is funded by the generosity of our industry partners. We ask our members to consider a tax-deductible donation of $15,000 that supports graduate students, travel, equipment, and other resources needed to conduct impactful research. This funding enables us to recruit and retain the best research team and dramatically accelerates research output.

We are always looking for energetic and passionate members, even if they do not have the capacity to contribute financially.
“The CSRA has the potential to catalyze the next big step change in construction safety. The research topics emphasizing serious incidents and fatalities align directly with our industry’s needs.”
Mike Court
Vice President of HESQ
Graham Construction

“Partnering with the world-class safety researchers at the University of Colorado provides us with the opportunity to transform construction safety with evidence instead of theory.”
Ellen Quinn
Vice President of EHS
The Otis Elevator Company