

RESEARCH
ASSET*Catastrophes of the future - Cultural aspects of fireproof clothing in the Danish fire department*

This research project investigates the development of modern fire catastrophes and the cultural aspects of firefighters daily work and use of their fireproof clothing. The aim is to provide the manufacturer of the clothing – *Viking* – with an understanding of the cultural context as opposed to mainly regarding the technical aspects.

Lise's anthropological field study shows that the fire service departments are often very homogenous; middle aged men with similar values and a strong sense of unity. This lack of diversity hinders natural renewal and makes introducing new work routines and technology a bit difficult. Based on the increasing knowledge on new and different kinds of fires and on how damaging carcinogenic particles work, Viking is continuously updating the technology of the fireproof

clothing. However, Lise found that the clothes is not always being used in the correct manner and this puts the fire fighters in danger of exposing themselves to dangerous particles. Thereby, a main finding is that new technology cannot stand alone but that it is crucial that the people using it are instructed correctly on how to use it most appropriately. Another point is, that catastrophes are changing; terror actions and climate changes such as forest fires and floodings are becoming more pervasive, and this too sets an additional range of requirements to the clothing and equipment at the fire stations.



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Institution Name
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Country
Denmark



Research Area
Anthropology



Thematic Focus
Cultural aspects of fireproof clothing | Danish fire stations



Stakeholders involved
Fire stations, Manufacturers of safety equipment



Research Phase
Finished.

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POTENTIAL VALORISATION AREAS

- **Collaboration with Industry** – research project is carried on as a collaboration with Viking A/S who manufactures safety equipment and clothes and field study is done at local fire stations
- **Collaboration with researchers from natural sciences (chemistry)**
- **Usage of collaboration experience (case study) in teaching** – preparing students better for future work life with real life problems



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DESCRIPTION OF VALORISATION ACTIVITY

Lise has created a **folder for Viking** with a range of central points and things to be aware of in their collaboration with the fire departments and development of products.

VALORISATION TARGETS/POTENTIAL FUTURE COLLABORATORS

Manufactures of safety equipment and clothes such as:

- Viking A/S
- Qtac
- Dräger

Local fire stations