

SSHE Newsletter 1/2015

May 2015

1) What to Do in the Event of Violence at ETH Zurich



Violence is a global problem. The media confronts us with the topic on a daily basis and even Switzerland, which is intrinsically very safe, cannot escape violent acts.

The same question keeps cropping up: How can violence be tackled and prevented? Let's get one thing straight right from the start: There is no standard solution. As violence is committed on and by people, every situation is unique; even the little details can be crucial.

When there are reports of acts of violence and the associated hazards at schools, it is frequently a case of an armed attack with the intent to kill. Then the word "amok" tends to dominate the headlines and there is talk of a respectable citizen who suddenly started shooting at people "out of the blue" and "for no reason". At closer inspection, however, the vast majority of these deeds have one major thing in common: There were clear warning signs beforehand.

For this reason, ETH Zurich introduced its Threat Management concept back in 2008/9, which on the one hand – as the name suggests – provides strategies on how to manage threats and look after and advise victims correctly. On the other hand, however, victims also know who they should inform and where to get [help](#) →. As a result, the threat management team is made aware of existing threatening situations and can take action.

Yet, despite all the preventative measures, it is impossible to thwart all acts of violence. We are all called upon to protect ourselves. Here are the most important recommendations on what to do:

- Lock yourself in a safe room to elude the perpetrators. In order to enable you to do that, SSHE presently runs a project with the aim of equipping public ETH-rooms with amok-locks.
- If you know or can determine exactly where the perpetrators are, however, fleeing the building might be the safer option
- Once in a safe room, alert ETH Zurich's [Emergency Desk](#) → and/or the police at once. Then keep quiet and don't make any more phone calls
- Don't try to contact the perpetrators or the media
- Wait for instructions from the rescue services and obey them

We all hope that it won't ever come to that at ETH Zurich. Consequently, we focus on prevention and provide information transparently. Events were held in conjunction with Zurich City Police on 5 and 6 May 2015 to provide information on correct conduct in the event of acts of violence. The slides are available [here](#) →.

2) How Does the First Aid Team Work?

Whether someone has fallen down the stairs or collapsed – the First Aid Team is quickly on the scene. However, not all members of ETH Zurich know how the First Aid Team works:

If you have an accident, medical emergency or witness such an incident, contact ETH Zurich's Emergency Desk immediately on 888 (internal lines) or 044 342 11 88 (external). The operator (the Emergency Desk is manned around the clock) will take your call and mobilise the First Aid Team, which will immediately head to the scene to perform first aid or, if need be, support the ambulance service. ETH-

Zurich buildings also have zip bags for less serious cases, which contain plasters and disinfectant to treat minor injuries.

What do you need to bear in mind when you call out the First Aid Team via the Emergency Desk?

- Provide the operator with as much detail as possible; the nature and scene of the incident are pivotal.
- In the event of a serious incident, call for an ambulance immediately. Yet, nevertheless inform the Emergency Desk afterwards: As the hub for all emergencies at ETH Zurich, it needs to be aware of all events.
- Look at the brochure «[How to Play it Safe at ETH Zurich](#)» →. It contains information on how to proceed in case of an accident or medical emergency.

Wanted: new members for the First Aid Team!

The First Aid Team consists of ETH members from various units (e.g. from administration units such as the facility management, but also from academic units), who perform this task “on the side”, as it were. The members are trained in First Aid and undergo further education every year.

The First Aid Team is on the lookout for new members. Do you like helping other people and are able to keep a cool head? Do you hold at least a 50-per-cent position at ETH Zurich? Then [Simona Mutti](#) →, Head of the First Aid Team, looks forward to hearing from you. Further information and the registration form are provided [here](#) →.

3) Training and Further Education in Laboratory Animal Science

As outlined in the [2014 SSHE Annual Report](#) →, ETH Zurich and the Institute for Laboratory Animal Science (LTK) at the University of Zurich (UZH) have been collaborating more closely since the beginning of the year. SSHE and LTK co-organise and conduct training and further education courses for animal testing specialists, which are required by law in Switzerland. From 2015, a new training module for people who conduct or lead experiments will be offered – Module 11: “How to prepare a score sheet for my experiment?” It involves a one-day course that teaches the role of adequate score sheets and how to compile them for specific experiment projects. The first course was held on 11 May with participants from ETH Zurich and UZH. Further information on the course and on the registration process is available from the course director [Maïke Heimann](#) →.

Dates and modules

Module 11 will be offered twice more this year: on 4 August 2015 and on 1 December 2015. An overview of all the LTK modules offered and soon also on Module 11 is available on the [LTK website](#) →.

4) Open Escape Doors

In various ETH-buildings, cases of unlocked and even open escape doors have been increasing recently. It might be convenient to leave the building that way in the evening; however, the price you pay is a high safety risk. An open door, especially on the ground floor, allows an unauthorized person to enter a building or a lab and it aggravates the risk of theft. It cannot be in the interest of ETH to grant

access to hazardous substances, scientific equipment and data to everybody. Furthermore, in buildings containing labs, doors left open promote odor nuisance as the ventilation system is affected. Therefore, we kindly ask you to always lock escape doors and thus contribute to a safe working environment.

5) Escape Routes

As of 1 January 2015, based on the revision of the fire safety regulations, escape routes may now be 15 metres longer. While this makes life easier for architects and facilitates building use, it is also acceptable from a safety perspective: It is not the length of the escape route that is crucial, but the moment of evacuation in the event of a fire. Indirectly, the new fire safety regulations are therefore an appeal for building users to take alarms seriously and leave the building in a timely manner.

Construction and planning concepts on the topic of escape routes and personal safety are all well and good – the human factor is the key. Unfortunately, experience has shown that evacuation routes are sometimes used as storage space and that emergency exits are blocked. The following measures indicate the correct conduct:

- Maintain a minimum width of 1.2 m in escape routes
- Emergency exits must be freely accessible at all times
- No moveable trolleys in escape routes
- Familiarise yourself with the relevant escape routes in your building
- No flammable objects in corridors or stairwells
- Electrical appliances such as coffee machines and refrigerators are not permitted in escape routes and must be removed



Blocked escape door

It is a similar story with escape doors: These must be kept completely clear to guarantee the final step into a safe environment. Moreover, they are used by the rescue services for rapid access. Anyone who fails to comply with the requirements for evacuation routes is not only endangering themselves, but also others. Do you want to know which escape routes are available to you? The [Escape Route Maps](#) → are available on the ETH-Zurich website.

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Topic index for newsletter articles online

Since the 1/2012 issue, all newsletter articles have been displayed on the [SSHE website](#) → in a neatly arranged topic index. If you are interested in [working with hydrofluoric acid](#) → or how ETH Zurich is prepared for the [evacuation](#) → of buildings, for instance, this is the place to look. We wish you a good read!