

SSHE Newsletter 2/2015

September 2015

1) Installation of Security Locks

When it comes to security, prevention is ETH Zurich's main priority. The Threat Management Team, for instance, endeavours to guard against violence by identifying troublesome people at an early stage and, thus, defuse threatening situations before they escalate. As with all preventive measures, however, it is essential to establish a crisis management system. After all, there is no guarantee that nothing will ever happen.

In the case of threatening situations perpetrated by violent criminals, SSHE recommends the following course of action: Lock yourself in a room to protect yourself optimally. Consequently, the project "Amok Security" was launched in 2015: From 2016 public rooms with at least ten seats (meeting rooms, auditoria, seminar rooms etc.) will be equipped with security locks that work purely mechanically. These enable the people located in the room to lock themselves in by turning a knob in the event of an amok alarm. Thanks to the panic function integrated in the lock, they can also leave the room at any time (*without* turning the knob again). The door remains bolted as soon as it falls back into the lock and can only be opened from outside with the matching key.

Buildings that are closed during the daytime and can only be entered with a badge or key are excluded from this provision. The modification of the doors focuses on buildings that are heavily frequented. After the modification work, SSHE will train the relevant offices and people in handling the locks. This is because even if ETH Zurich does its utmost to prevent an act of violence, it would still like to be prepared for an emergency. It's better to be safe than sorry.

Information and Alarm Tool (IAT)

In order to guarantee that ETH-members are alerted as extensively as possible in the event of an incident, the project Information and Alarm Tool (IAT) is being conducted in parallel. The aim is to inform ETH-members about an incident by text message and telephone in addition to the already existing alarm by email. IAT is scheduled to be activated at the end of 2015. For questions regarding IAT, please contact [Adrian Meier](#) →, for questions on the amok security project [Reto Suter](#) →.

2) Chemistry Intervention Team

ETH Zurich set up the new Chemistry Intervention Team (CIT), which tackles small, acute and non-acute chemical incidents at the Zentrum and Hönggerberg campuses during regular opening hours. One example of an incident where the CIT is deployed might be a burst acid waste canister in a lab, without anyone coming into direct contact with the harmful liquid: The users are unable to gain control of the situation, but calling out the Chemical Incident Response of the canton of Zurich (Chemiewehr) – which incidentally carries a fee – would be excessive.

The CIT is an ETH-internal specialised team headed by Dr Ines Raabe, SSHE division Chemical First Response, Occupational Safety, Biosafety and Hazardous Waste Disposal (CABS). The team consists of volunteers who have passed an aptitude test and receive regular training. Yet, the CIT is not an in-house fire brigade. In the event of a chemical incident – however small it might be – that is accompanied by fire, the professional fire brigade is called out instead of the CIT. Graver chemical incidents, e.g. a damaged solvent tank, are also tackled by the Chemical Incident Response, not the CIT.

As far as raising the alarm is concerned, nothing changes for the users: You still contact ETH's [Emergency Desk](#) → on 888 (internal telephones; external: 044 342 11 88). The operator will connect you

call to the CABS staff, who will decide whether the CIT or the Chemical Incident Response will be called out, for instance.

Any questions on the CIT? Or interested in joining the CIT? Then contact cabs@ethz.ch →.

3) New Courses for Animal Caretakers and Experiment Study Directors

Animal caretakers who work in lab animal science are legally obliged to undergo continuous training. However, there is only a limited number of places on course programmes for this vocational group, the courses are rarely conducted in German and they are seldom scheduled according to the target group's rigid working agenda. Within the scope of the cooperation between ETH and the University of Zurich (UZH), this gap is now to be plugged with a new training programme geared towards UZH- and ETH-members working in the context of animal care. The aim of this modular programme is to refresh old knowledge, gain new expertise and provide insights into other areas of lab animal science. The course comprises individual lectures (duration 1.5 h) or practical exercises (3 h) in German. Participants are registered for the individual dates by their supervisors; as soon as they complete a total of 6 h of attendance for the various events, they are awarded a certificate for one training day. Recognised as a training course by the vet office Zurich, the programme kicked off with the first practical exercise on 21 August 2015. The feedback from the participants was positive.

In cooperation with SYRCLE (SYstematic Review Centre for Laboratory animal Experimentation at Radboud University, Netherlands), a one-day workshop on systematic reviews (systematic search of metadata) is to be conducted on 11 September 2015. Systematic reviews can help answer questions regarding the clinical relevance, selection of suitable animal models or the ideal design of a planned animal experiment. We were able to get the experts from Radboud University on board as speakers. The course is recognised as training by the Federation of Swiss Cantonal Vet Officers (VSKT).

Further information on the new courses and the registration process is available from [Maike Heimann](#) → who is in charge of lab animal science education at ETH.

4) Laser Pointers in the Crosshairs



Laser pointers in the office supplies shop's range

You're sitting at the back of the lecture theatre, the sun is shining and the lecturer points with the laser pointer. But where? You're annoyed: "Yet again, I can't see a thing! Can't they use stronger pointers?!" Which begs the key question: How strong is a laser pointer actually allowed to be?

According to Suva, a class-3R laser pointer can be used (1 mW to smaller than 5 mW). But the beam must be flared. If a structure is mounted as well, e.g. in the shape of an arrow, legally speaking the user becomes the manufacturer of the laser pointer and is therefore liable. If the beam is not flared, the user must have specialist knowledge and ensure that nobody can be injured. This is not trivial as a 3R-class laser pointer can cause eye and skin damage and even a burn.

Class-1 (up to 0.34 mW) and class-2 lasers (max. 1 mW) are unproblematic. Although they are less bright and might not always be visible from the back of the lecture theatre, they are safe: They don't

damage the eyes or the skin if accidentally pointed at someone. In accordance with the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), only laser pointers from classes 1 and 2 can be given to private individuals.

ETH Zurich follows the FOPH's recommendation: only class-1 and class-2 laser pointers should be used. These can be obtained from the [office supplies shop](#) →. Naturally, laser demonstrations can still take place in special events, if the necessary safety measures (protective goggles, laser protection screen, specialist expertise etc.) are being heeded.

Please contact cabs@ethz.ch → if you have any questions.

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