

# SSHE Newsletter 2/2017

September 2017

## 1) Information Regarding Incidents at ETH Zurich

ETH Zurich is as big as a small or medium-sized town: Around 30,000 people do research, teach, study and work in over 200 buildings. Therefore, it is hardly surprising that incidents such as accidents or medical emergencies occur from time to time. Depending on its scope, an incident can affect other members of ETH Zurich on campus, whether they involuntarily witness a medical emergency, a building needs to be evacuated or public transport on the Höggerberg has to be temporarily suspended at the behest of the emergency services.

Consequently, ETH Zurich has begun informing users on campus regarding incidents of a certain magnitude – to tell them the reason for the disruption to normal operations as soon as possible and swiftly dispel the rumours, which tend to start in situations like these. The information is restricted to the bare essentials – after all, the privacy of those involved also needs to be respected – and deliberately not provided in minor incidents; a report is only made if campus operations are compromised in any form. Fortunately, this is a rare occurrence – and we hope this will remain the case.

## 2) Safety Recommendations for Research Projects Abroad

In Newsletter [1/2017](#) →, we reported on the new directive for safety and security on excursions in the context of courses. Foreign excursions in particular can harbour risks – whether they be due to terrain or climatic conditions or local socio-political circumstances. However, the guidelines only apply to excursions involving students, not members ETH Zurich's staff. For us, this now begs the question as to how we can support researchers who embark on research projects abroad outside the curriculum as regards safety and security.

An initiative from the Center for Development and Cooperation ([NADEL](#) →) at ETH Zurich came in particularly handy: At the end of 2016, NADEL compiled a code of conduct (CoC) for students of their MAS Development and Cooperation, who are heading to developing countries to carry out project work as part of their degrees. NADEL's CoC is very similar to the guidelines of the Swiss Red Cross (SRC) for its employees and thus based on the experiences of the SRC. With NADEL's kind permission, SSHE adopted the contents of their CoC and used them to compile recommendations for all ETH-employees. The result, the *Safety and Security Recommendations for Research Enterprises Abroad*, is aimed at helping researchers to plan and carry out these endeavours safely and securely. The document can be accessed on the [SSHE webpage](#) → for excursions and field trips.

## 3) When You Are not Allowed to Use Your Mobile Phone

Most likely, you also keep your mobile with you at all times. If you enter a or work in an explosion-prone area, however, it has to remain outside, unless one of the few exceptional cases apply.

As you are doubtlessly aware, work areas where there is or could be an explosive atmosphere are divided into zones and only electrical devices deemed suitable in accordance with the respective zone may be used. What does that have to do with your mobile? Generally speaking, if conductive components are located in the radiation field of transmitters, they can serve as a receiver antenna. Potentially, this also goes for mobiles as batteries may act as an ignition source. Moreover, sparks might form if a mobile with a metal case falls, for instance.

For the use of mobile phones in zones for combustible gases, vapours, mist (zone 0-2) and dust pollution (zone 20-22), the following applies:

- Zone 0 and 20: Mobile phones or radios must not be used.

- Zone 1 and 21: Mobile phones and radios may only be used if you have a type-examination certificate for the individual model from an authorised inspection authority.
- Zone 2 and 22: Mobile phones and radios may be used without an EC type-examination certificate if you have a clearance declaration from the manufacturer for use in explosion-prone areas in zone 2 (category 3).

Do you find the information confusing? You don't know whether your mobile phone has a type-examination certificate? If in doubt, better leave it outside! [SGU CABS](#) → would gladly advise you if you have any questions.

## 4) Unattended Items



The media is full of stories of “unattended” suitcases, rucksacks and other bags that the police have to deal with by means of controlled detonations. More often than not, this occurs in railway stations, public squares and airports. These callouts interfere with our everyday lives: trains are cancelled or suffer severe delays, buildings cannot be entered, roads are blocked off and the traffic has to be diverted, causing traffic jams.

SSHE Security frequently has to deal with luggage left unattended in and near ETH-Zurich buildings in the run-up to bank holidays and holiday periods. In the past, there have been occasions when the police had to be called out to help open or dispose of potentially hazardous objects.

SSHE Security asks the readers not to leave baggage of any kind unattended outside rooms and buildings. Always keep your bags within eyeshot, leave them in your office or use a locker. These days, suitcases and rucksacks left lying around without any indication of their owners can give cause for alarm. Reports that come in are always taken seriously. Any police callouts and other expenses may have to be charged to the owners.

## 5) Conference of the Fire Authorities' Association at ETH Zurich

The Canton of Zurich Fire Authorities' Association's aim for nearly a century has been to raise awareness of fire safety among its members (specialist planners, authorities, companies) by organising events and networking activities. SSHE's Fire and Explosion Safety section enjoys close ties with the association and attended the General Assembly in March with a speech on the topic of evacuation at ETH Zurich.

The association will now be holding this year's conference (early September) at ETH Zurich for the first time, focusing on topics such as challenges at major events or how concrete behaves in high temperatures. The latter is important for the ever-increasing demands on construction materials – including in terms of fire safety. The theoretical side of things will be supplemented with individual practical sessions and a tour of the HIB building with its wooden roof, which was built by robots. As the host, SSHE will assume the patronage of the conference.

## 6) Information on the Flu Jab

SSHE is organising a flu vaccination campaign in 2017 again. The vaccination is voluntary and free for members of ETH Zurich. You will receive an email as soon as the registration portal is activated. The dates scheduled are as follows: Zentrum: 19 October (morning) and 7 November (afternoon); Hönggerberg: 24 October (morning) and 14 November (afternoon). The flu vaccination for the D-BSSE in Basel will take place on 24 October (11 am to 1.30 pm). [sgu\\_betriebssanitaet@ethz.ch](mailto:sgu_betriebssanitaet@ethz.ch) → will answer any questions you have.

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