

SSHE Newsletter 3/2015

December 2015

1) The Information and Alarm Tool (IAT) Goes Life

ETH has developed an Information and Alarm Tool (IAT) based on the product of an external company (cf. articles in previous publications, e.g. in the [SSHE newsletter 1/2012](#) →). In the last week of November, the IAT has gone live. It allows the operator at the Emergency Desk to alarm the people concerned at the push of a button, if, say, a building in the centre or at the Hönggerberg has to be evacuated. In this case, the users of the building at stake receive messages by e-mail, SMS, and by automated landline call. These messages contain information on the nature of the danger, the site in question and instructions on how to behave. Simultaneously, the automated alarm calls will be sent out to impersonal telephones (for instance in lecture halls) in the building(s) at stake. In case the nature of an incident demands it, the IAT can be used to send out a comprehensive alarm informing all ETH members about the danger via the above mentioned media.

To make sure you'll get an alarm by SMS, it is important that you register your cell phone number at www.adressen.ethz.ch →. The same goes for the contact details of your workplace, which you can administer at the same website. Keep the address of your office and your office phone number up-to-date – it will serve your personal safety and security.

2) The Uniformed Security Service now on Early Shifts



Urs Rauscher, SiDi

As of January 2015, the Uniformed Security Service (SiDi) is now also on duty between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the context of a pilot project. Unlike during the late or night shift, however, SiDi does not perform any first responses if technical facilities break down during the daytime. Other duties take priority during the early shift: As trained first-aid officers, the SiDi staff will intervene in the event of an accident or medical emergency or, if need be, assist the emergency services. The same also goes in the event of a fire, such as if the scene of the incident needs to be secured or SiDi can aid the Fire Alarm Team. Due to their excellent knowledge of the buildings and thanks to the emergency vehicle, the SiDi staff will also take immediate action at the scene.

Besides these duties and the team's normal rounds – looking for blocked evacuation routes, leaking water pipes etc. – displaying a physical presence is also a priority. SiDi members primarily patrol buildings with high occupancy rates in order to make their presence felt and act as contact people for the concerns that ETH-Zurich members might have.

If an accumulation of thefts is reported in a building, SiDi has the option of increasing its presence to prevent further theft. And finally, due to its flexibility, SiDi can also be used for investigations or errands.

So contact Urs Rauscher and his uniformed SiDi colleagues if you need help. They will do their utmost to assist you.

3) Evacuation Drill in the Main Building



The evacuation helpers get organised

The notice didn't give away too much: In week number 44, there was going to be an evacuation drill at the ETH Library in the main building for members of the Fire Alarm Team (BAEq). On 20 October, the big day finally came: A mock evacuation alarm sounded at the Emergency Desk, which was instantly relayed to members of BAEq and the Library staff.

The evacuation helpers immediately leapt into action: They prepared material, donned reflective vests, delegated tasks and informed the library visitors about the drill while the drill organisers assigned duties, monitored the radio communication and coordinated the event. Once the drill was over, all those involved convened for an initial feedback session. The conclusion: The drill was a resounding success as the participants had been able to practise procedures, identify any shortcomings and clear up any misunderstandings.

There is still some room for improvement, especially with regard to the communication procedures (particularly handling the radio equipment) and responsibilities in the field. These issues will be re-addressed in future drills.

There was also a downside, however: Very few users were actually aware of the assembly point in the MM sports hall. Do you know where you have to go in the event of an evacuation? Click [here](#) → for the answer.

Fire Alarm Team (BAEq)

The members of BAEq attend fire safety courses every year. In 2015 the training focused on the new fire safety regulations – e.g. the adjustment of evacuation routes. Moreover, the courses are also a welcome opportunity for the participants to swap experiences.

BAEq currently has more than 150 members. Nevertheless, we are constantly on the lookout for new recruits. Anybody who is employed at ETH Zurich (level of employment at least 80 %) and interested in safety is welcome to join. Interested? Click [here](#) → for more information on BAEq and how to get in touch.

4) Environmental Management at ETH Zurich

ETH Zurich's requirements in the environmental sector have increased considerably in recent years: At operational level, a government initiative – The Confederation: Exemplary in Energy ([VBE](#) →) – calls for a great deal of commitment from ETH Zurich's environmental management. The initiative's aim is to make the participants (the federal administration, the ETH Domain, Swiss Post, SBB, Skyguide and Swisscom) 25 per cent more energy-efficient by 2020 (compared to 2006). The 39 measures specified – in the fields of buildings and renewable energies, mobility, computer centres and green IT – mean a high level of commitment for the ETH-Zurich offices involved.

Against this backdrop, SSHE decided to boost its team: Susann Görlinger joined the staff unit in August. Her main responsibilities are to support and take the pressure of the departments in terms of operative environmental management, coordinate environmental reporting, and run and cooperate in projects. She has already got the ball rolling with regard to individual measures – e.g. on the topic of sustainable procurement. In doing so, she can fall back on groundwork that has already been laid, such as the [Leitfaden für eine nachhaltige Beschaffung an der ETH](#) → compiled in 2013.

In addition, [Susann Görlinger](#) → serves as a contact person and coordinator for practical questions on environmentally friendly conduct at ETH Zurich. For members of ETH Zurich who would like to be environmentally friendly in everyday life, our guidelines [Our Commitment](#) → issued in 2014 provide practical tips.

5) Importing Biological Material



When importing biological material from abroad, users often ask the SSHE department of Chemical Safety, Occupational Safety, Bio Safety and Hazardous Waste Disposal (CABS) to issue an import permit as the supplier requires one. Certain shipments without an import permit may be stopped at customs while others pass through without any trouble. So what's the official stance? We have summed up the most important facts for you:

- Most human-pathogenic and genetically modified substances do not require an import permit (exception: If they fall under the Goods Control Ordinance or are classed as a biological weapon according to the Federal Act on War Material – see the information provided on the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) [website](#) →). The regulations and forms for importing animal-pathogenic substances and material of animal origin are provided on the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) [website](#) →.
- ETH Zurich does not have a general import permit. If one is required (e.g. because the supplier insists upon it), the user is responsible for applying for it from the FOPH or FSVO. The applicant will also cover the fee for issuing the document.
- Depending on the “biosafety level” (BSL), the work you intend to carry out with the material you are importing needs to be registered beforehand with the Federal Coordination Centre for Biotechnology [ECOGEN](#) → (BSL1 and BSL2) or requires a permit (BSL3).

6) Flu Jab 2015

As in previous years, the SSHE staff unit conducted the annual flu vaccination campaign for members of ETH Zurich in collaboration with the Zentrum für Arbeitssicherheit, Ergonomie und Hygiene (AEH). A total of 1,522 members of staff, retirees and students signed up for the four dates between 20 October and 24 November – a 10 per cent increase from 2014. We are delighted that the campaign is so well received and wish all members of ETH Zurich a cold- and flu-free winter.

7) Safety of Campus: Presentation in Berlin

On 5 and 6 October, the seminar “Safety on Campus – Risk Situation, Prevention and Crisis Management” was held at Humboldt University of Berlin; ETH Zurich’s SSHE Staff Unit was also invited to give a talk. The presentations addressed topics such as potential threats in a university environment, recognising and tackling potential dangers in student counselling, crisis communication and practical

examples from the university sector. In the practical section, SSHE presented ETH Zurich's safety organisation and threat management concept. Most of the talks are available online [here](#) →. The seminar was organised by the Arbeitskreis Fortbildung im Sprecherkreis der Kanzlerinnen und Kanzler der Universitäten Deutschlands, which holds several events on topical issues every year. The seminars provide a platform for discussions and an exchange of experiences between colleagues.

8) Staff Change in the SSHE Office

Saskia Heller will be leaving the SSHE Office at the end of the year upon completing her degree. We would like to thank her for everything she has done and wish her all the best for the future. Claudia Nef-Gilli will now be in charge of the SSHE Office. She will initially be working 40 per cent at SSHE while she continues to support the Vice President of Human Resources and Infrastructure (VPPR) two days a week until the end of the year. She will then join the SSHE Office with a level of employment of 80 per cent in 2016. We look forward to working with Claudia Nef-Gilli and bid her a very warm welcome.

Published by

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