

SSHE Newsletter 3/2016

December 2016

1) Changes in Hazardous Waste Disposal

The procedures at the hazardous waste stations are set to change in 2017. What do we expect to achieve by this? We would like you to be able to dispose of your hazardous waste more efficiently and more safely.

Instead of having to tip out and pump over solvents, acids and alkalis as has been the case until now, you will be able to collect them in canisters and hand in the filled canisters at the hazardous waste stations in future. You may obtain the canisters along with labels and hazardous substance symbols free of charge at the stations. You can continue to hand in out-of-date chemicals as usual. If you have many old chemicals to dispose of, however – after a spring clean in the lab, for instance – please use our [form](#) →. We will help you with the triage and arrange a separate appointment with you. From now on, we will also record the hazardous waste electronically at all disposal stations, which will facilitate more efficient storage logistics and enable us to react more swiftly to changing quantities of hazardous waste, for example.

The switch to the new system will take place in January 2017 in the Zentrum (CNB) and step by step on the Höggerberg (HCI) in 2017. From December, we will present our new services to you on guided tours of the hazardous waste disposal station in CNB. Tours on the Höggerberg will be conducted next year. Dates and registration options are provided [here](#) →. Visit us [online](#) → or contact sonderabfall@ethz.ch → if you have questions.

Order catalogue for safety labels

Safety labels can be ordered from SSHE. The range includes diverse hazard warning signs, hazard symbols, prohibitory signs, mandatory signs, safety signs and emergency posters. All the articles available can be found in our newly created [catalogue](#) →.

2) Easy Pickings for Pickpockets



As Christmas draws near, they are back in force. They practice their trade in silence, are inconspicuous and – sometimes – quite successful. Although their hourly wages vary, they can “earn” hundreds of francs in the space of a few seconds with their nimble fingers: We are talking of “pickpockets”. While their name has a funny ring to it, for the victims, it is a serious matter as ID cards, subscriptions etc. are usually stolen along with the money and have to be replaced.

Pickpockets are on the prowl again at this time of year and often find easy pickings: unlocked offices and labs, unattended valuables lying about. In hindsight, it is often impossible to determine whether it was unwanted “guests” or even your own “colleagues”. Hence our tip: Keep office doors locked in your absence. Don’t leave any valuables unattended or in your coat or bag. And challenge unknown individuals lingering in your workspace to find out whether they are actually entitled to be there.

Pickpockets also “operate” in canteens and restaurants, where they take advantage of the narrow seating. They deftly reach into the inside pocket of your jacket hanging on the back of your chair and remove your wallet. If they are professionals, you will have your wallet back after the deed, but the banknotes will be gone. So the same goes here: Keep an eye on your belongings.

3) “Nationaler Zukunftstag” – Children Pay SSHE a Visit

Safety at ETH Zurich – how does it work? That is what the three girls and four boys who signed up for the item on programme of the “Zukunftstag” (literally: “future day”) entitled “Duties of the Emergency Desk and the Uniformed Security Service” were also wondering. At the Emergency Desk (AZ), operator Harry Neumeister gave the children a glimpse into the infrastructure, technology and communications. During a tour with Ruedi Lang and Christof Körber from the Uniformed Security Service (SiDi), they were allowed to communicate with the radio, visited a large utility centre and a fire extinguisher station. Moreover, guided by Ines Raabe the young visitors learned about the particular risks at a university at the safety circuit, where they had to tackle a simulated medical emergency and moved around in a smoky building area (the smoke was generated by a fog machine). And for the “hand-washing” experiment, fluorescent creams and black light were used to show the children what remains on the skin even after we wash our hands. After the children had completed all the tasks with flying colours, they were presented with an “ETH Safety Memo” as a small souvenir before being escorted safely and soundly back to their parents.



H. Neumeister, Chr. Körber and R. Lang (f. l. t. r.) with the youngsters

4) A Glance Back at the Fire Safety Course 2016



There's a fire. What do you do? Once again, this was the central question at this year's fire safety course. Between 26 September and 21 October, nearly 1,300 participants were trained to handle fire extinguishers and fire blankets by professional instructors, and learned things that might prove useful in both their private and professional lives.

However, the fire safety course is also a fresh opportunity for members of the Fire Alarm Team (BAEq) to receive further training. The BAEq, composed of staff from various areas, is responsible for first responses in the event of a fire and during evacuations at ETH Zurich. Coping with this difficult task is only conceivable thanks to regular practical courses. Consequently, this year's programme focused on topics such as operating the fire alarm system or getting injured people to safety. In order to prepare the members even more effectively for a serious incident, two evacuation drills a year are to be conducted for each building area (without involving the building users) in future. Every year, the fire safety course begins in the second week of the autumn semester and is free of charge for members of ETH Zurich.

5) A Glance Back at the Flu Jab

As in previous years, SSHE conducted the annual flu vaccination campaign for members of ETH in collaboration with the Zentrum für Arbeitssicherheit, Ergonomie und Hygiene (AEH). On for dates between 20 October and 24 November, a total of more than 2,000 employees, retirees and students got the vaccination – over 35% more than in 2015. We are delighted that the campaign is so well received and wish all members of ETH Zurich a cold- and flu-free winter.

Big Data Study on the Spread of Influenza

Big Data researchers of ETH led by Prof. Dirk Helbing conduct an analysis on the connection between human behaviour and the spread of influenza. ETH-members can support the researchers by registering under grippenet.ch → and participate in the study.

6) Postdoc Gone, Data Gone? – New Training Module in Laboratory Animal Science

In collaboration with the Musculoskeletal Research Unit (MSRU) at the University of Zurich's Tierspital, a one-day workshop on quality assurance in the laboratory animal science sector for people who perform or run experiments was held in November. The title of the course, "Postdoc Gone, Data Gone?", alludes to a problem that exists in some research groups: A lack of orderly data archival management can lead to the loss of important data. The aim of this new module is to present the quality assurance systems available (e.g. ISO, GXP or ARRIVE) and apply their principles to the needs of academic animal-based research. For instance, the planning, conduction, publication and documentation of animal-based studies can be improved, which boosts their replicability and usability in subsequent preclinical or clinical projects. Moreover, suitable quality assurance measures based on the 3R-approach can prevent having to repeat studies using animals due to planning mistakes or incomplete information in publications. The next date for this new module is 7 April 2017. Further information on the course and registration is available from training officer [Maike Heimann](#) →.

7) SSHE Videos on What to Do in Case of an Evacuation or Targeted Violence

Would you like to know what to do in the event of an evacuation or targeted violence at ETH Zurich? SSHE has created information films for these two scenarios that sum up our recommendations on how to act. Click [here](#) → to view the films. If you would like to know more, visit the SSHE-website for information on [targeted violence](#) → (password-protected) or [evacuation](#) →.

Have you witnessed or even been the victim of violent or threatening behaviour at ETH Zurich? Get in touch. We will treat your report confidentially and, if necessary, take steps. Further information is available on the [webpages](#) → of the "Respect campaign".

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