

# SSHE Newsletter 3/2017

December 2017

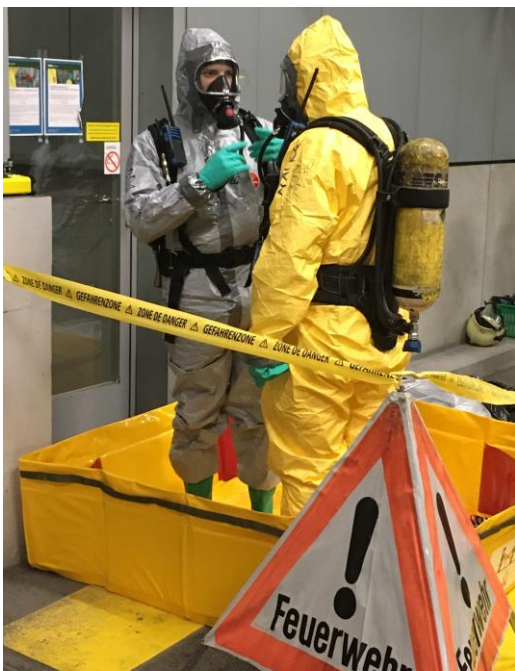
## 1) Widespread Test of the Information and Alarm Tool

The Information and Alarm Tool IAT ensures the flow of information to those affected in the case of incidents at ETH Zurich. An alarm will be raised if an incident occurs that makes it necessary to evacuate a building or barricade yourself in a room. The alarm is raised via text message and e-mail as well as using non-personalised and in some cases personalised landline phones. ETH Zurich has already been able to test the IAT in individual buildings in the course of several evacuation drills since it was launched at the end of 2015. But an extensive test run involving all ETH Zurich members requires a great deal of preparation: technical implementation, advance notice and sending a test notification to all students and employees at the Zurich location all needed long-term planning and strong support from Corporate Communications, IT Services and the Facility Management – thank you to everyone involved. To avoid additional disruption to teaching and research activities, we also decided not to trigger the evacuation systems during the test. Last but not least, it was important to us not to send the “real” texts and thus create panic, because a widespread alarm would be used at ETH Zurich in the case of targeted violence. While the probability of this scenario is very remote, we wish to be prepared for all eventualities.

At last, on 26 October, we were ready to test the IAT across all of ETH Zurich. The initial results of the test are very positive: The system works, and a widespread alarm can be raised for ETH members. As always with tests of this kind, it goes without saying that certain shortfalls were also identified which will now be addressed. We were, however, overwhelmed by the level of support received from you, dear ETH members: We received more than 10,000 responses that will help us to evaluate the test and improve the IAT even further. Thank you very much! The draw for the prizes announced for those who provided feedback will be held in CW 47. Winners will be contacted by e-mail.

If you have any questions concerning the test or the IAT, you can get in touch at [sgu-security@ethz.ch](mailto:sgu-security@ethz.ch) → any time.

## 2) Drills with the Hazmat Unit of the Fire Brigade



CIT and the Hazmat Unit working together

Following on from the complete success of the first drill by ETH's Chemical Intervention Team (CIT) and by the Hazmat Unit of Zurich's fire brigade (Schutz & Rettung Zürich, SRZ) in 2016, it was quickly decided to continue with such joint drills in the future. The next drill was set for November this year, and once again, the trainers came up with a challenging scenario.

Something really stinks here – the in-house technician passing the disposal ramp notices a pungent odour. What's the cause? A vile-smelling brew is dripping from a container. Dialling 888, he immediately notifies the Emergency Desk. The Emergency Desk then deploys the Uniformed Security Service (SiDi) and the CIT. The head of operations of the CIT soon realises that the danger zone needs to be cordoned off and any further liquid must be prevented from dripping out. These emergency measures the CIT can undertake itself. But what chemical is involved? Are the surrounding rooms at risk? Because the container is not labelled – which is not the normal procedure – various measurements have to be carried out. The

SiDi briefs the Hazmat Unit summoned in the meantime for backup. The heads of operations of the CIT and SRZ both agree on how to proceed: Sealing the leak is just a temporary solution; the content of the

container has to be pumped into another container as quickly as possible. This is where the special material of the Hazmat Unit comes into play. The two teams work hand in hand and thus create a strong foundation for working together to master real incidents in the future.

### 3) Work and Alcohol Limit

We pretty much all know what alcohol does to our body. We have all heard it said that a blood alcohol level of just 0.3‰ reduces our concentration, impedes our vision, increases risk-taking and slows our reactions. It makes sense not to drive or carry out dangerous work when under the influence of alcohol. On the roads, we accept the alcohol limit – most of the time. We know ourselves when we are no longer able to drive, don't we? A common misconception; alcohol causes us to release dopamine and endorphins. This means that we feel more confident and more relaxed and are more willing to take risks.

Therefore, we think we'll drink some coffee to sober up quickly. That is the next misconception, because coffee does not speed up the rate of alcohol absorption in the liver, and nor does a greasy breakfast, a workout, a cold shower or a walk in the fresh air. Time is the factor that counts: By the following morning, we are sober again. However, it takes a very long time for the body to absorb alcohol, at a rate of roughly 0.1 – 0.15‰ per hour. The quantity is decisive: *Dosis facit venenum* (the dose makes the poison). Residual alcohol is a risk that is not to be underestimated with regard to, for instance, the performance of a chemical experiment or the operation of a machine – for our colleagues and ourselves. We all need to respect the alcohol limit, not only on the roads but also in our workplace.

### 4) Switch in the Paper Range

From 2018, ETH Zurich is switching its paper range to white recycled paper. There are many benefits, as this step will protect the environment, save costs and meet high quality standards. Now we use grey recycled paper, brilliant-white paper and most recently white recycled paper. The contract with ETH Zurich's current paper supplier expires in mid-2018. In the tender for the new contract, the university followed the recommendations of the Swiss Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics, and will in future only use white recycled paper from the "Balance Classic" brand. The new paper is significantly better for the environment than the old range, particularly in terms of water consumption and carbon emissions in production. In addition, "Balance Classic" has already been tested by various organisational units to assess the printing and photocopying quality – the results were positive across the board.

## 5) New Shared Management of the Alarm Organisation



Roman Saladin

SSHE is delighted to have hired two new members to head up the Alarm Organisation, which comprises the Emergency Desk and the Uniformed Security Service. Roman Saladin and John Bachelor took up their new position at ETH Zurich on 1 October 2017.

Roman Saladin is familiar with security service and emergency response work from his many years working in different well-known security firms, especially Securitas, where he held various roles ranging from uniformed services to branch management.

John Bachelor joins ETH Zurich with 30 years of experience in technical security. Most recently, he was general manager at Protect Sicherheitstechnik AG, where he, among other things, focused on the transition from analogue data transmission to data transmission via General Packet Radio Service (GPRS).



John Bachelor

We wish both of them every success in their work at ETH Zurich!

### Editor

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