

SSHE Newsletter 1/2014

1 In the Spotlight: Evacuations at ETH Zurich

At a technical and scientific university like ETH Zurich, fire is one of the main dangers, which is why fire hazards are a top priority in the internal SSHE risk catalogue.

Numerous researchers and administrative staff members work with highly flammable substances or on complex facilities day in, day out. While there have never been more than four fires a year at ETH Zurich since 2010 – in all 240 buildings – the fact that fires occur at all makes fire safety a crucial topic. Besides technical (e.g. the installation of fire alarm systems) and structural measures (e.g. the installation of escape routes), great importance is attached to organisational measures. Consequently, the SSHE staff of the fire and explosion safety division compiled a comprehensive evacuation concept at the beginning of 2014, which defines how to proceed in an incident and determines the responsibilities.

In the event of an evacuation, ETH Zurich essentially distinguishes between two kinds of building: *buildings with a large number of occupants* and *other buildings*. In buildings with a large number of occupants – e.g. the main building or the HCI on the Hönggerberg – lectures or practical courses take place, there are canteens or libraries, or they contain safety-related and complex research facilities. Due to these characteristics, these buildings require enhanced fire safety. They are sometimes equipped with a Public Address (PA) system to alert the occupants in an incident. Moreover, SSHE compiles customised documentation for evacuations in these buildings bit by bit. In the event of a fire in these buildings the fire alarm team appears on the scene (Monday to Friday between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.) to clear the affected building and manage the evacuation. An evacuation is always triggered by ETH Zurich's [Emergency Desk](#) after it has been notified by the users or by a fire alarm. Subsequently, the evacuated users congregate at the evacuation assembly point (the ASVZ sports centre Z89 in the MM building beneath the Polyterrasse in the centre or the HXE building on the Hönggerberg), where they are informed as to when a building can be re-entered. At weekends, on bank holidays and between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. an evacuation is carried out independently by the users. The fire alarm team is trained by SSHE every six months.

The procedure in the event of an evacuation was also defined for *other buildings* – smaller buildings with fewer occupants, purely administrative buildings etc. As these buildings can be

Evakuierung – was tun?
Evacuation – how to react?

1. Andere informieren Spread the word	
2. Gebäude verlassen Leave the building	
3. Wichtige Infos an Evakuations-Leiter Important information to the evacuation-leader	
4. Zum Sammelplatz To the assembly point	

Alle Notfälle / All emergencies: 888
Emergency evacuation sign

IMPRINT

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classed as lower risk, greater weight is attached to the users own initiative. They inform the Emergency Desk which, in turn, alarms the daytime stand-by staff from the Facility Management Infrastructure Division. They support the users in the evacuation. The latter primarily need to protect themselves, take their personal belongings (valuables, keys, coat etc.) if possible and leave the building. Of course, it is also important to inform other users about the evacuation. After the evacuation, the users decide for themselves whether to wait in the vicinity for the building to be cleared for re-entry or go home. For these buildings, no evacuation assembly point is arranged in case of an incident.

The development of the evacuation concept also includes the adaption of web contents on fire protection. Already in the autumn of 2013, the SSHE Staff Unit began to process the evacuation route plans for buildings with a large number of occupants for online use by members of ETH Zurich. These are gradually being uploaded on www.plan.ethz.ch. Furthermore, from 1 June all the relevant information on the topic of evacuation will be available on the [SSHE website](#). If you want to know whether your place of work is located in a building with a large number of occupants, need information on the evacuation assembly points or are seeking FAQs, you will find all the information you need there.

In the second half of the year, the SSHE Staff Unit will launch an information campaign to bring the evacuation concept closer to the users and provide answers to pressing questions. We will inform you again in due time. For information, however, you can contact the staff of the fire and explosion safety division at any time via [email](#).

2 ASA Inspections 2014/2015

In 2014 and 2015 the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) will be checking ETH Zurich's occupational safety and health care measures. This includes a so-called "ASA system control" (ASA stands for "consultation of occupational physicians and other occupational safety specialists"; [EKAS Guidelines No. 6508](#)). In doing so, SECO will visit all departments and selected additional units in the next one and a half years or so to check whether the occupational safety and health care standards are being met.

Individual inspections, such as in the hazardous waste disposal facility in the HCI or in the FIRST lab, have already been conducted and resulted in positive assessments by the SECO occupational hygienist Vesna Sormaz. The other inspections will be coordinated by the SSHE Staff Unit. Some of the departments and units involved have already been informed, the others will be contacted in due time so that appointments can be arranged and the way forward discussed. If you have any questions, feel free to contact [Katherine Timmel](#), Head of the SSHE Staff Unit.

You need **warning stickers**, **mandatory action signs** or **hazard labels**? As of now, you can order labelling material for your labs, workshops, machines or containers via the email address stickers@ethz.ch (please state kind, number and size).

3 Vaccinations: Change in Cost Units

Researchers and staff in field experiments or on excursions are sometimes exposed to the risk of infection or contagion, which can be minimised by vaccinations. In accordance with the *Verordnung über die Verhütung von Unfällen und Berufskrankheiten* (Ordinance on the Prevention of Accidents and Occupational Illness; [VUV](#)) of 19 December 1983 (Art. 3¹), ETH Zurich bears the cost of vaccinations that are recommended for its staff within the scope of the aforementioned activities. Students are reimbursed for 50 percent of the costs.

Until now, SSHE has been the unit shouldering these costs within ETH. Meanwhile, however, the administrative workload involved in processing these requests and reimbursing the costs is beyond our capacity. Due to the irregular and constantly increasing number of requests, the costs are no longer calculable for us. Consequently, as of 2015 these costs will have to be borne by the institutes, chairs or other organisational units affected. To help you with the administrative processing of the vaccinations, we will make a factsheet available on the intranet by 1 June 2014:

<https://www.ethz.ch/intranet/en/service/safety-security-health-environment/health/vaccinations.html>

We thank you for your understanding and ask the units affected to factor the funds necessary for the vaccinations into the budget planning or costing for projects from 2015 onwards.

4 Security at the Workplace



Already in 2013, the staff of the SSHE Security division subjected the buildings of the [kihz](#) Foundation (childcare in the Zurich university area) to extensive safety assessments. For 2014 it was agreed that the entire kihz staff would be trained in how to behave in dangerous incidents. In March, the two security officers conducted this course in conjunction with the University of Zurich's Safety

and Environment Department ([SU UZH](#)) and the municipal police force. Around 100 kihz staff members were taught what security is, which tasks the staff in this field at ETH Zurich perform and what drop-in centres there are. Other focal points were the safe organisation of one's own workstation (are there objects that a difficult customer could use as a "weapon" against me?) and how to behave in dangerous incidents – faced with people or objects (e.g. letters, packages) that could constitute a threat. Both the kihz staff and the trainers gave positive feedback at the end of the event.

The Security Division offers these courses and consultation sessions for any department at ETH Zurich where the staff regularly come into contact with customers. Interested in a consultation? The [Security staff](#) would be happy to help you.

Would you like to know more about the prevention of violence at work? The SSHE Staff Unit is organising various workshops in Zurich and Lausanne together with ETH Lausanne from 16 to 20 June. The [SSHE Course Calendar](#) provides information, including on how to register.

5 ETH-Zentrum Energy Supply Concept

ETH Zurich is planning to convert the energy supply of the centre location over the next years and make it increasingly more efficient. The environmental burden during the production of heat and refrigeration is to be minimised. In doing so, the historical, heterogeneous structures and demands of the building park (a conglomerate of over one hundred sometimes very different objects) have to be considered just as much as the potential expansion within the scope of the "master plan Zentrum".

The energy supply includes heat, refrigeration and electricity. On the one hand, the existing heat supply is based on the Walche heat pump, which draws environmental heat from the Limmat and converts it into thermal heat. On the other hand, district heating (steam) is obtained from the Fernwärme Zürich AG grid. The cooling needs are currently satisfied with decentralised mechanical cooling machines. The electricity is purchased from the local electricity provider of the City of Zurich (EWZ).

Since April 2013 a project team headed by Wolfgang Seifert (SSHE), ETH Zurich's energy officer, has been working on the new energy supply concept. After assessing the supply option, the Thermotunnel proved to be the best solution. Environmental heat from Lake Zurich can be used efficiently for the production of heat and refrigeration based on a water line that conducts lake water from Zürichhorn to ETH Zurich (ML). Highly efficient heat pump and chillers are placed in the ML, which bring environmental heat to a suitable temperature level. The distribution of energy in the centre then takes place using an existing heat ring and a cooling ring that needs to be constructed.

The realisation of this option requires long-term planning. The possible construction stages are displayed in the accompanying schedule.

