Inventory of FSB’s special hazards – Creation of a hazard identification tool -

In 2007, EPF council asked for a safety management tool identifying hazards present on both campuses. The SB-SST conducted the identification and the inventory of hazards at FSB. In collaboration with the CUSSTR, a list of 24 hazards with 4 levels of danger has been established:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>no danger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Low danger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Moderate danger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>High danger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For each level of danger, a quantitative threshold has been determined based on legal directives or internal practical tests. This hazard identification tool will soon be available on the website www.cusstr.ch.

Dangers related to chemical properties
Flammable solvent is the most widespread hazard at FSB. 10% of the 826 FSB laboratories contain more than 50 litres of flammables. On the contrary, toxic gases are found in a small number of laboratories and explosive compounds are almost absent.

Dangers related to physical properties
Research activities with lasers of class 3B or 4 are particularly frequent. This type of equipment is present in nearly 10% of our laboratories. About 50 laboratories have instruments using magnetic fields usually with a weak intensity owing to continuous progress in shielding. Activities linked to radiation emission are becoming very rare.

Cumulated dangers
62 laboratories encompass at least 3 high hazards. They will receive particular attention during the next safety visits of the SB-SST.

The presence of a High danger level does not mean that the associated risk is also high. The work performed by your safety delegate and the visits of the SB-SST contribute to reduce the risk by applying in priority technical and operational measures.

The Recommendations and Rules of the CUSSTR are updated

Due to the success obtained by the website of the French Swiss Academic Commission on Occupational Health and Safety (the CUSSTR), its members decided to completely re-design its presentation making it more accessible and user friendly. The Fribourg University’s web-designers were an appreciated support. Moreover, for the non-French speaking people, all information has been translated into German and will soon also be available in English. The different documents are periodically updated, by the occupational safety and health specialists members of the CUSSTR.

The “Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne” (EHL) recently joined the CUSSTR. Its competences in organization and management will bring additional skills to the existing ones.

I encourage you to visit our new website, wishing you not only pleasure in discovering it but also finding practical information related to safety and health in day to day life as well as in your research activities in laboratories.

Michel Buttin
CUSSTR president.