



Factsheet

February 2019

UZH Fire Safety Regulations

This factsheet outlines the fire safety regulations of the University of Zurich (UZH). Each section begins with a brief description of the provisions that are currently in force and then provides practical examples of how these apply to the daily use of UZH facilities.

1. Vertical Escape Routes (Stairways)



Stairways are the key – and often only – means of emergency escape from a building. It is thus essential that they are kept clear to guarantee safe thoroughfare at all times.

Under no circumstances may fire break out or develop in vertical escape routes.

Stairways exist for the sole purpose of safe movement within and emergency escape from buildings; all other uses are prohibited!

Note: A strictly limited amount of non-flammable furniture has been placed, with authorization, in the stairways of the main building at City Campus and at Irchel Campus. Additional furniture is not permitted and any changes to the current inventory of furniture must be authorized by the Department for Safety, Security and Environment.

2. Horizontal Escape Routes (Corridors)



Corridors provide horizontal evacuation paths. Aside from being an escape route, they are also important access points and thoroughfares for the fire department, ambulance, and police. Operating appliances (such as refrigerators or coffee machines) and installing furniture (such as sofas and wooden furniture) in corridors is prohibited.

Storing material or garbage, or installing items other than the cupboards and photocopiers described below, is not permitted.

Permitted Use of Space in Corridors:

- A maximum of one photocopier per fire compartment (generally the area between corridor doors) is tolerated. One piece of non-flammable furniture with a closeable, non-flammable front panel may be placed next to the photocopier for storing paper and toner, but only in areas where free passageway of at least 1.20 m is guaranteed at all times.
- Non-flammable cupboards with a closeable, non-flammable front panel may be installed if free passageway of 1.20 m is guaranteed at all times. They may not be used for storage of flammable materials, hazardous materials, or gas cylinders, nor may electrical appliances be operated within them. Such cupboards must feature a sloping top panel or be fitted flush with the ceiling. Storage of materials on top of cupboards is prohibited.
- Non-flammable garbage containers with a self-extinguishing mechanism or with a self-closing lid are permitted.



3. Fire Doors (Self-Closing Doors)

The functioning of doors in corridors and stairways may not be compromised in any way. Tampering with or propping open fire doors (e.g. with wedges, string, or other items) is prohibited. Doors featuring a self-closing mechanism may not be propped open via any means.

4. Doors to Rooms

Doors to work spaces (with the exception of laboratories) may be kept open if the room is occupied. The last person to leave the room is responsible for closing the doors to prevent a fire from spreading to corridors or stairways, and to limit the effects of a fire on adjacent rooms.

Closure of doors is the responsibility of staff. Automatic door-closing devices are no substitute.

5. Decorations

It must be ensured that room decorations cannot catch fire (safe distance from lamps, etc.). Flammable decorations are not permitted in horizontal or vertical escape routes.

6. Events, Receptions, Catering

Please see the relevant provisions at www.del.uzh.ch.

7. Posters, Pinboards, Pictures

The relevant provisions can be found in the fact sheet at:
<http://www.su.uzh.ch/activities/brandschutz/doku.html>

The measures outlined in this fact sheet are based on the fire safety regulations of the VKF and constitute standard practice at UZH.

This list is not exhaustive. Any further regulations issued by the Department for Safety, Security and Environment are to be observed.

The Department for Safety, Security and Environment is happy to assist you with any questions you may have.

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