

Seven Questions – Seven Answers

Seven Questions for Stefan Bühlmann



Stefan Bühlmann, Fire Safety Expert (VKF), safetyfocus GmbH

You're now on site at uptownBasel almost five days a week — how did that come about?

The project has grown significantly in recent months, and the requirements keep becoming more concrete. As a result, my involvement has intensified too. Today I'm practically part of the day-to-day project work and accompany many topics directly on site.

What are you working on most intensively right now?

At the moment, my focus is on providing fire safety guidance for the various construction and fit-out phases. The goal is to align the requirements early on with the technical and operational needs of the users.

Fire safety for an AI supercomputer — what was your first reaction when you got the assignment?

Honestly: curiosity. An AI supercomputer presents very different requirements than conventional buildings or data centers. I immediately knew we'd need innovative solutions, and that the project would be technically very exciting.

What makes uptownBasel special for you as a specialist?

The combination of research, industry, high-tech, and entrepreneurship on a single campus is unique. You're not working on one single building here, but on an entire innovation ecosystem.

What's the biggest challenge with a site like this?

The diversity. Different uses, high technical requirements, and dynamic development all need to come together under one shared safety concept. That requires a lot of coordination and foresight.

What are you especially looking forward to here in the coming months?

Watching the individual projects become reality step by step. For me, the most exciting moment is when plans and concepts turn into a functioning operation.

Fun fact: what would people on campus never guess about you?

That I'm a passionate griller in my private life. I spend a lot of time at my fire pit, experiment with different fire techniques, and am constantly trying out new recipes. It often gets a smile, especially since professionally, my job is to make sure fire stays exactly where it belongs.

Thanks, Stefan, we're looking forward to trying out the next barbecue experiment.



Photo: Stefan Bühlmann