

GUIDELINE FOR ACTIVISTS

ON HOW TO DEAL BETTER WITH THREATENING SITUATIONS

Looking back at Ende Gelaende in Lusatia 2016: During the Ende Gelaende action in the Lusatia (Lausitz) region 2016, activists were faced with threats and physical assaults by right-leaning and right-wing people. These were spontaneous attacks on the one hand, but also organised, aggressive rallies near blockades on the other. The police sometimes did not respond to emergency calls from activists. Like many progressive movements, the climate justice movement fits right-winged enemy images and is targeted by right-winged violence.

With this flyer we want to find a common and determined way to deal with threatening situations.

Basically applies: Be attentive and discuss in your affinity group about how you want to deal with threatening situations. Don't roam around the area alone but rather stay in immediate vicinity of the fingers, blockages, demonstrations, pickets and EG support structures. We recommend to not park your private cars in unattended areas. Rest stops are high risk spots for assaults.

Always act deescalating, don't let yourself be provoked and look out for each other – keep CALM in possibly escalating situations! EG as an alliance by activists for activists tries to provide support, but cannot guarantee your physical integrity. The following is a description of varying situations that could arise. They are meant to help your affinity group in your preparation and to enable us all to act decisively and together in our actions.

Independent actions: When planning creative actions – apart from the big blockades – keep in mind the possibility of threatening situations. Talk about how you want to protect yourselves and keep yourselves safe, when you'd want to call the police and make sure to have a vehicle nearby that can give you shelter.

Encounters with Pro-Coal-advocates: It is possible to come in contact with residents, passers-by or even pro-coal-demonstrations during the action. Feel free to participate in open discussions of course, but watch out for your own safety (physical distance), avoid provocations and retreat when hostility arises.

Attacks by right-leaning and right-winged people: It is vital to not put yourself in disproportionate amounts of danger in menacing situations. Be quick in reaching an assessment of the threat and, when necessary, leave the area and ask for help from the support structures. While leaving the area, stay close together and make sure no one gets left behind. Chaotic fleeing may well add to the potential danger of individual activists. Move in a way that persons who feel more apt to deal with the situation are positioned in the direction of attackers.

A similar approach is applied when it comes to attacks on blockades and demonstrations. Arrange your affinity group in a way that those of you that feel more confident in the situation are on the outer circle. In unclear or chaotic settings, make others aware of potential attackers and quickly arrive at a common assessment. If needed, request help from the support number. Having lighting available can help to discourage potential attackers and deescalate situations when it's dark out. If faced with imminent threats, think about holding your blockade (linking arms) while standing instead of sitting. That could help building up a certain determination in stressful moments and prevents individual people from being targeted. Stay calm and ward off attacks together.

If the police intervene in an attack or threat situation, we recommend not to make any statements about your behaviour, but only about that of the attackers. Bear in mind that the police could then consider you as witnesses and ask for your ID in order to summon you later as witnesses. There is also the danger that the attacker will make a counter-indication and that your ID will also be passed on to the other side in this case.

INFO + SUPPORT PHONE NUMBER FOR THREATENING SITUATIONS:
0049 15124629795