

Health Risks

- Hair can easily fly through the air. Therefore disease is air-borne.
- Typical symptoms are red spots on the skin. These itch and can be very painful.
- These symptoms disappear after 3 to 6 days. In rare cases allergic reactions occur.
- Medical care is recommended.



Reduction of Health Risks

DON' T play / walk under oak trees

DON' T wear short sleeved clothing in wooded areas

DON' T touch caterpillars

DO shower after detection of contact with hair

DO wash effected clothing

DO consult a physician if severe exposure occurred



**USAG
Schweinfurt
Directorate of
Public Works**



**OAK PROCESSIONARY
MOTH**

For questions and comments please contact the Environmental Division:

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Habitat



- Lives in moderate climate
- Migrates north due to global warming
- Lives on oak trees, but hornbeam, hazel, beech, sweet chestnut and birch are also reported to be attacked, mainly because growing next to severely effected oaks
- Size of nest can be between 10cm up to 1 m ((4 -40 inches). Moths shed and pupate in their nest.

Environmental Effects

- Oak processionary moth is a major defoliator of oak in Europe.
- Caterpillars typically follow one another head-to -tail in long 'processions ' to and from the nest and from one feeding position to another. This gives them the common name.



Environmental Effects



- Hair from caterpillar can cause skin irritation and/or other health problems (respiratory problems). Hair contain a defensive toxin, a chemical harmful for humans.
- Abandoned nests contain shed skins and vast numbers of detached hairs and should be treated with extreme caution.

