



Inside this Newsletter you will find: **Kingfisher — Bird of the Year 2009 in Germany**

- Kingfisher - Bird of the Year 2009 in Germany
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The Common Kingfisher (*Eisvogel*) is Bird of the Year 2009 in Germany. It is a sparrow-sized bird which has the typical short-tailed, large-headed kingfisher profile; it has blue upperparts, orange underparts, and a long bill. The flight of the Kingfisher is fast, direct and usually low over water. The short, rounded wings whirr rapidly. The Kingfisher hunts from a perch above the water. It feeds mainly on small fish, caught by diving.

The Kingfisher can be found throughout the year on both still and free flowing, clear water bodies and doesn't migrate. To breed, the birds build their nests in a burrow in a low vertical riverbank. Kingfishers are important members of ecosystems and good indicators of freshwater community health.



The kingfisher is currently fighting for survival due to severe and long-lasting periods of frost. Rivers and lakes can ice over, preventing the bird from reaching its prey. During severe winters many birds die, but the population usually recovers after a few years.

Environmental Services we provide:

- Environmental Management System
- Environmental compliance training and assistance
- Energy conservation training and material
- Hazardous material/hazardous waste management
- Natural and cultural resources management

For any question please contact us at 354-6795 or environmental-usag-schweinfurt-dpw@eur.army.mil or visit our webpage at www.schweinfurt.army.mil/sites/dpw/ We can assist you with any occurring environmental problem

Be prepared! External EPAS Upcoming



An external Environmental Performance Assessment System (EPAS) assessment is scheduled for 20 to 24 April 2009. During this week, an external team of environmental specialists from IMCOM-E supported by contractors will inspect each building and storage site within USAG Schweinfurt. They will interview personnel and review documents.

Compliance assessments such as the external EPAS are essential for the USAG Schweinfurt to maintain a strong compliance posture, to avoid liability and fines, and to prevent risks for the environment and human health. These assessments also help the Garrison to identify non-conformances and potential areas for improvement. Results of the assessment will be used to work out and implement corrective actions in order to continually improve the Garrison's overall environmental performance.

Inspectors will make appointments for several inspections or interviews ahead, but they will also conduct spontaneous inspections and interviews. To be prepared you should have important environmental documents readily available. Documents that should be kept on hand at every work place are the Environmental Management System (EMS) policy (posted on our webpage at: http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil/sites/commander/policies/CMDPolicyLtr_3-8.pdf), standing operation procedures (SOPs), emergency response procedures pertaining to the specific work area, and training records. At all Hazardous Material (HM) or Hazardous Waste (HW) storage areas documents such as the Garrison's Red Plan, a (completed) inspection list, and operating instructions (*Betriebsanweisungen*) should be posted. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) for each HM should be accessible.

If you have any questions or need assistance in preparing please do not hesitate to contact the Environmental Division.

- Important environmental documents to have on hand
- at every work place:
 - ⇒ EMS policy
 - ⇒ Applicable SOPs
 - ⇒ Training Records
 - ⇒ Applicable Emergency Response Procedures
 - at HM/HW storage areas:
 - ⇒ Red Plan
 - ⇒ Inspection form
 - ⇒ Operating instructions
 - ⇒ Applicable MSDS



NEW: Garrison Commander releases two new Standing Operation Procedures

Our Garrison Commander has recently signed two new Standing Operation Procedures (SOPs) on important environmental issues concerning almost all of us! These SOPs apply to every community member within USAG Schweinfurt. The full versions of these SOPs can be downloaded from our webpage at <http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil/sites/dpw/> under "DPW Divisions" – "Environmental" – "EMS" – "Download Manual and Procedures"

Reduction of Environmental Impact from Vehicle Usage

One procedure intends to reduce unnecessary and avoidable air pollution, fuel consumption, and noise from vehicle use.

For **reduction of air pollution and fuel consumption**, idling the engines of parked vehicles is prohibited. The following guidelines apply:

-  During wintertime, do not warm up cars or de-ice windshields by running the engine while parked.
-  Do not leave cars running for cooling purposes during summertime.
-  Idling of vehicles is only allowed if necessary for maintenance purposes (e.g. adjusting motors, working on the ignition system)

For **reduction of unnecessary and avoidable noise** from vehicle use, the following guidance applies:

-  Turn off engines while parked.
-  Do not slam car doors.
-  Do not unnecessarily drive back and forth within housing areas.
-  Loud music from vehicle stereo systems within housing areas is prohibited.



Remember: Idling your car wastes fuel, pollutes the environment and creates irritating noise. In Germany, idling your car is prohibited by law! So turn off your engine if you are stationary for more than 20 seconds. Idling wastes fuel, particularly when scraping ice from windows as the engine is cold - use windshield covers to avoid having to scrape ice from the windshield and drive off without wasting fuel. Not only does this protect the environment but you also have better visibility of the road!

Using Material Shredders at Bldg. #147, Conn Barracks

The Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Division operates two material shredders at Bldg. #147, Conn Barracks: A paper shredder and a plastic/metal shredder.

The **paper shredder** is only to be used for the shredding of classified paper and cardboard; it is cleared to handle "secret" documents. For quantities over 50 kilograms or 100 pounds an appointment must be arranged with the O&M Division at DSN 354-6201.



The **plastic/metal shredder** is only to be used for the shredding of classified metal such as hard disks and plastic parts such as CD-ROMs, name tags, video tapes, film rolls, and foils.

Operating hours of the shredder are the same as for the Recycling Center next to Bldg. #147, Conn Barracks, and are posted on the Garrison's web page on <http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil/sites/dpw/> under "DPW Divisions" – "Operations & Maintenance".

Please do not forget to sign in on the sign-in log and to read the operating instructions for shredder operation.

Fuel Saving Tips

Idling wastes fuel (see section above). Besides avoiding idling, here are some other tips for saving fuel. They help you to emit less greenhouse gases, save money and protect yourself and your family!

- * Shift to a higher gear as soon as possible!
- * Remove surplus weight from your car!
- * Check the tire pressure regularly!
- * Practice car sharing!
- * Walk short distances!

