



USAG
SCHWEINFURT

ENVIRONMENTAL
DIVISION - NEWSLETTER
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Newsletter
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Environmental
Services we
provide:

- Environmental Management System
- Environmental compliance training and assistance
- Hazardous Material/ Hazardous Waste management
- Natural and cultural resources management

If you have any questions, please contact us at 354-6795 or

environmental-usag-schweinfurt-dpw@eur.army.mil

We can assist you with any occurring environmental problem!

Barbecue Season

There's no better way to celebrate summer than to barbecue outdoors, as long as you take special steps to keep your family safe from grilling accidents or injuries, and to protect our environment:

- **Never barbecue indoors** - not only is this a fire hazard, but charcoal and propane emit toxic carbon monoxide fumes.
- **Have a fire extinguisher**, a garden hose attached to a water supply, or at least 16 quarts of water nearby in case of a fire.
- **Never use any flammable liquid** other than barbecue starter fluid to start or refresh a fire. Never pour or squirt starter fluid onto an open flame. Flames can flash back along the fluid's path to the container in your hands.
- **If using a gas grill**, check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing and ensure all connections are secure before turning on the gas. Move gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and dripping hot grease. Do not store empty compressed gas cylinders - turn them in!
- **Keep children away** from fires and grills. Never leave the grill unattended.
- **Reduce waste** by buying in bulk and avoiding single-serve products. Choose products sold in recyclable containers. Serve your food on reusable or completely biodegradable plates instead of plastic or styrofoam ones.
- **Take all your waste with you** and do not leave anything in the countryside. **Recycle** the empty cans, bottles, and aluminum pie tins.



Enjoy your BBQ and protect your environment!

Open Burning Prohibited!



Open burning is prohibited within the US Army Garrison Schweinfurt footprint. This confirms a policy memorandum signed by Garrison Commander LTC Spain in January 2010, referencing US Army Regulation and Host Nation Law. This includes the burning of paper documents and other record carriers, including burning documents and/or records for destruction purposes.

Documents designated for destruction must be taken to the Recycling Center Building #147, Conn Barracks (DSN 354-6201), which is equipped with an industrial-sized pulper (secret clearance granted). This shredder complies with the highest security standards.

Spill Training Conducted

Effective spill prevention and response is critical to limit damage to human health, property, wildlife, and our environment. Regular training is important to ensure the effectiveness of spill response personnel in the event of a hazardous substances spill.

On 6 May 2010, the Environmental Division offered a training session in Conn Barracks for members of the USAG Schweinfurt that have specific spill response duties. The course addressed German-speaking personnel and was conducted by a contractor. The intention was to train these personnel to respond appropriately and effectively to spills or releases. The course was attended by 35 people which received a certificate afterwards.





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Biodiversity is Life... Loss of Biological Diversity

Biodiversity loss has accelerated to an unprecedented level, both in Europe and worldwide. It has been estimated that the current global extinction rate is 1,000 to 10,000 times higher than the natural background extinction rate. In Europe, some 42% of European mammals are endangered, together with 15% of birds and 45% of butterflies and reptiles. Agricultural intensification, overfishing, land abandonment, urban and transport infrastructure development, pollution, and climate change, among other **causes**, are responsible for these negative impacts.

The framework for **international actions** regarding biodiversity is the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which the EU ratified in 1993. It seeks to protect genetic diversity, slow the rate of species extinction, and conserve habitats and ecosystems. The EU adopted a biodiversity strategy in 1998. EU leaders want to halt biodiversity loss in Europe by 2010 and beyond. The European Commission is developing priority measures and mobilizing key actors to meet these ambitious goals (EU Biodiversity Action Plan). Measures conducted by the EU to halt biodiversity loss include e.g. protecting species and habitats (e.g. European NATURA 2000 network, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora); sustainable use of biodiversity; and integration of EU biodiversity into EU environmental law, research, and public education.

What is Biodiversity?

Biological diversity - or biodiversity - is one of the key terms in conservation, encompassing the richness of life and the diverse patterns it creates. Biological diversity is defined as "the variability among living organisms from all sources including, *inter alia*, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems". The Earth's biological resources provide us with food and industrial materials and are essential for our survival (fresh air, clean water) and our economic development.



Source: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/info/pubs/youth_en.htm

2010 - International Year of the Biodiversity is an opportunity to better preserve biodiversity, learn from experience, and determine the challenges for the future. Everybody can support the preservation of biological diversity!

Summer Safety

Now summer has started, finally, we are all enjoying the sun. But we have to be aware that too much exposure to sunlight bears health risks, not only during our summer vacation and leisure time, but also if we work outside!

If your skin is exposed to UV radiation too long, this will result in **sunburn**. Affected areas become red and painful, and may blister. This is often followed by peeling skin and itching. Repeated or extreme sunburn can increase the risk of skin cancer. The greatest risk for sunburn is at noon. Light-skinned and fair-haired people are at particular risk.

Exposure to too much sun can also result in **sunstroke**, which is caused by a failure in your body's cooling system. Symptoms of sunstroke include sudden headache, dizziness, weakness, or fainting. Young children and the elderly are at increased risk of sunstroke.

To prevent sunburn and sunstroke:

- Avoid direct sunlight, when possible.
- Stay in shaded, cool areas whenever possible, especially at work during breaks.
- Schedule your activities to avoid being outside during the hottest times of the day.
- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight long-sleeved garments and wide-brimmed hats.
- Use sunscreen and pay attention to the sun protection factor (SPF).
- Drink plenty of fluids and avoid caffeinated and alcoholic drinks.
- Avoid strenuous activity in warm climates. If you want to exercise outside, do so during the early morning, which is the coolest part of the day.



Annual HM Inventory

Army Regulation (AR) 200-1 and the German Final Governing Standards (GFGS) require tenant units, as well as organizations that treat, store, handle, and dispose of Hazardous Material (HM) within the USAG Schweinfurt, to conduct an annual inventory of HM. Proper HM management is an integral part of the Garrison's environmental program. Individual HM users have overall responsibility for ensuring that their HM are properly stored and handled. As worldwide resources diminish, we must increase efficiency. Mismanagement of HM not only endangers both our mission and our environment but is also a poor use of resources.

The Environmental Division (ED) will distribute the official memorandum regarding the annual HM inventory in June. The inventory must be sent back to the ED within 6 weeks of notification. When conducting the inventory, ensure that Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) for each HM stored are available and accessible at the location of storage and use. For further information, please contact the ED at DSN 354-6795 or environmental-usag-schweinfurt-dpw@eur.army.mil.

