



USAG
SCHWEINFURT

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION-NEWSLETTER VOL. 4/2010

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Inside this Newsletter you will find:

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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!

Honey Bees and Their Mysterious Disease

Honey bees are our third most important domestic animal behind cattle and pigs. Not only do they produce honey, beeswax and propolis, numerous flowering crops depend upon the honey bee for pollination, and therefore survival. Honey bees pollinate around 80 percent of cultivated fruits and vegetables, which in turn make up approximately one third of our diet. A honey bee colony generally contains one queen bee, a fertile female, seasonally up to a few thousand drone bees or fertile males, and a large seasonally variable population of sterile female worker bees.



But the number of bee colonies is currently declining. The reasons for this include harsh winters, widespread pesticide use, infections of colonies with the Varroa mite, which kills bee larvae, and a mysterious disease called "Colony Collapse Disorder" (CCD). This is a mass mortality of honey bees, characterized by a sudden and unpredictable collapse of the colony. Adult bees leave the hive for no identifiable reason and die. In winter 2006/2007 this mysterious disease led to the loss of 80 percent of all honey bee colonies in the United States. Up to now

a definite cause of CCD has not been identified but it is thought to be caused by a combination of various contributing factors.

What you can do: Do not use pesticides indiscriminately, and especially do not use pesticides at mid-day when honey bees are most likely to be foraging for nectar. Plant and encourage the planting of good nectar sources for bees such as red clover, foxglove, willow catkin, and bell flowers.



Correct Storage of Compressed Gas Cylinders

All Compressed Gas Cylinders (CGC) are considered Hazardous Material. Depending on the particular gas, it can cause fire or explosion. Reactivity and toxicity of the gas have to be considered, as well as the danger of asphyxiation even for "harmless" gases such as nitrogen. CGCs must therefore be handled with special care and precaution. At USAG Schweinfurt, CGCs are usually stored outside of buildings in storage cages to provide sufficient ventilation. The cages usually have two chambers, one for flammable gases and one for combustible (oxidizing) and inert gases, which are labeled according to the Final Governing Standards for Germany.



These rules for correct storage of CGCs are to be followed:

- Bottles have to be capped and secured to prevent falling.
- Empty CGCs must be marked as such.
- Unused and empty CGCs must be returned to the supplier, or else turned in to the Hazardous Waste Storage Area at Bldg. #147, Conn Barracks, or to the Hazardous Material Reuse Center at Bldg. #157, Conn Barracks.
- Flammable gases must be separated from inert or combustible (oxidizing) gases (see box on the right).



Flammable Gases (examples):

Acetylene, Butane, Propane



Combustible Gases (examples):

Oxygen, Nitrous oxide

And **Inert Gases** (examples):

Argon, Carbon dioxide, Compressed air, Helium, Krypton, Nitrogen, Trifluoromethane, Xenon



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New POL Shipping and Storage Containers

The Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division distributes shipping and storage containers for Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant (POL) products, National Stock Number (NSN): 8145-01-515-6458. The containers are designed for storing cans of mogas, diesel and/or JP8 and must be labeled. They can hold up to four fuel cans and will not be registered on a hand receipt (property book).

For correct use of these containers please note the following:

- Prevent penetration of rain and leave the lid closed at all times.
- Water containers should be stored separately. Do not mix Hazardous Material (HM) with water cans.
- **NEVER** store HM or POL products in water cans, as these are not certified for holding POL products. Furthermore, there is potential for harm to personnel and/or equipment through confusion caused by incorrect labeling.
- In order to mark the fuel cans properly and prevent confusion, the DPW Paint Shop can provide labels (indicating "Diesel", "Mogas", "JP8" or "Potable Water").



Two POL shipping and storage containers with labels.



Storage of potable water (blue label) mixed with fuel cans is prohibited.

In case of a spill (even into the container) the spill must be cleaned up properly. Use dry sweep or absorbent mats/pads to remove the spill. Dispose of contaminated material properly. Use the Hazardous Waste (HW) container for POL-contaminated products at your unit's HW Accumulation Point. In addition the HW Storage Area, Bldg. #147, Conn Barracks accepts HW on Tuesdays from 0900 to 1500 hrs.

ALWAYS have appropriate spill response equipment available.

EMS: New Significant Aspects

At USAG Schweinfurt, an Environmental Management System (EMS) has been implemented. This is a structured and ongoing approach to environmental management, based on international standard ISO 14001. It is a declared commitment to environmental protection and sustainability performance. The main aim is to prevent environmental pollution before it occurs.

To continuously improve our environmental performance, we assess our activities annually and define our areas of emphasis. These areas are called the significant aspects. At the last review, two additional significant aspects were identified: Handling/disposal of asbestos and spills/emergency situations. The Garrison now has six significant aspects which require particular attention and focus.

Significant aspects at our Garrison:

- Solid Waste
- Hazardous Waste
- Energy Consumption
- Management of POL
- Spills/ Emergency Situation
- Handling/Disposal of Asbestos



Turn-in of RFID Tags

Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) tags (see picture below) are used to track shipping containers, vehicles and other large assets.



Do not discard these tags into the trash! They contain 3.6 V lithium batteries and are therefore Hazardous Waste.

Furthermore, all available RFID tags must be re-used or returned to stock immediately to support in-transit visibility for combat and sustainment operations.

Therefore, **turn all RFID tags into the Supply Support Activity (SSA), Bldg. #70, Conn Barracks.**