



**Inside this Newsletter you will find:**

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- EMS Management Review
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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](mailto:environmental-usag-schweinfurt-dpw@eur.army.mil)

We can assist you with any occurring environmental problem!

**★ Use Windshield Covers to Prevent Scraping ★**



Now that the winter season is starting, you should think about having windshield covers on hand for your private and your company car. A windshield cover prevents ice scraping and snow removal. It even helps to protect wiper blades from freezing to the car's windshield. Furthermore, it helps you to save time and annoying work, you won't get cold hands, and it offers you better visibility of the road to protect yourself and your family.

A windshield cover is easily installed; it is placed on the outside of the car. All that you need do is put the windshield cover on the outside of your windshield when you get out of your car, and then when you wish to use your car just take it off and shake off the snow.

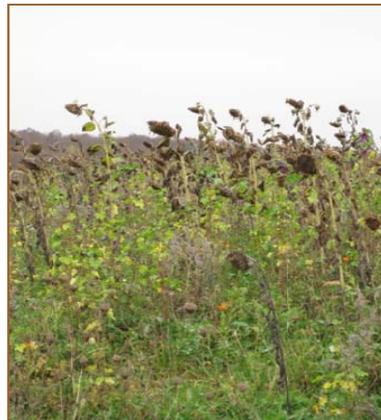
**Idling your car** to melt the ice and snow is not an alternative to a windshield cover. It wastes fuel, emits greenhouse gases, shortens the engine's economic life-time, and - most importantly - **is forbidden in Germany**. Also Executive Order 13514, signed by the President in 2009 says that petroleum consumption in agency fleets of 20 or more must be reduced by 2% annually through fiscal year 2020 relative to a fiscal year 2005 baseline.



**Follow Land as Biodiversity in the Cultural Landscape?**

The appearance of the agricultural landscape nowadays is often affected by large-area cultivated land of individual crops as monoculture. This sparsely structured and unilateral landscape only provides a marginal liveliness for diverse plants and animals.

Structured landscapes offer a semi-natural and relatively undisturbed area for characteristic species of the fields to live and are very valuable for the biodiversity and also for the economy (e.g. habitat for pollinator for the crops). Examples of these structures include: strips along the field which are not treated with herbicides or pesticides and allow wild herbs to grow; strips with blossom flowers; fallow land; boundary ridges; and hedges. The preservation or development of diverse structural elements is financially subsidized in the European Union (EU).



Field for wild animals, *Wildacker*, in the surrounding area of Schweinfurt, November 2010. A *Wildacker* is seeded from hunters or farmers for wild animals and provides food and shelter. Usually the plant cover is also abandoned in winter.

**ADVANTAGES OF FALLOW LAND:**

- Promotion of biodiversity in agricultural landscape;
- Protection of wild animal species;
- Creation of habitats for nutrition, offspring, and shelter;
- Promotion of wildlife corridors;
- Stabilization or increasing of populations which live on open areas or in the agricultural landscape; and
- Preservation of the soil fertility and prevention of erosion.

**Fallow Land**

Fallow lands are agricultural areas which are set-aside for variable periods of time during which no cultivation or management is conducted. Different forms of fallow land exist, depending upon the time period and development (natural or seeding). They are valuable for nature protection as they are valuable habitats for endangered species in farming areas. Originally, the land set-aside was implemented to limit the over-production of agricultural products in the EU. The farmers in the EU were obligated to set-aside eight percent of their area of holding from 1993/94 until 2007. Since then, they are not obligated but can still receive subsidies for land left fallow (unplanted).

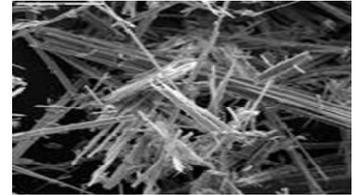


## VOLUME 6 – DECEMBER



### Maintenance Work and Disposal of Asbestos Containing Equipment

Asbestos is a natural mineral fiber that has been used - due to its fiber strength and heat resistant properties - for a wide range of manufactured goods such as friction products (automobile clutch, brake, and transmission parts). When asbestos-containing materials are damaged or disturbed, microscopic fibers become airborne and can be inhaled into the lungs, where they can cause significant health problems. Asbestos' U.S. legacy may be half-million deaths (Source: <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2010/07/21/97624/asbestos-us-legacy-may-be-half.html>)!



Asbestos Fibers, Source: <http://www.igm-gefahrstoffe.de/Messstelle/information/asbest.html>

#### Remember:

- All clutches and brake shoes as well as some gaskets (e.g. engine compartments) must be presumed to contain asbestos!
- All personnel servicing asbestos-containing material/equipment such as brake pads must be trained. For detailed information, contact the Garrison's Safety Office at **DSN: 354-1670**.

#### MAINTENANCE WORK

**Do not use compressed air** or dry brushing to clean brake assemblies!

**Never remove friction material** (brake pads) from brake assembly!

**Restrict access** during removal operations to limit exposure!

**For detailed information, including a description of the wet method** see the Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) for Maintenance Work and Disposal of Asbestos-Containing Equipment ([http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil/directorates/dpw/environmental/environmental\\_ems\\_docs.htm](http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil/directorates/dpw/environmental/environmental_ems_docs.htm))

**Always use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment:** disposable overalls, dust masks, protection goggles, and gloves.



#### DISPOSAL

Asbestos is **non-degradable!**

Treat all asbestos-contaminated material as **hazardous waste**.

Any asbestos waste and debris must be placed double-bagged in tear-proof plastic bags and placed into a container labeled "Caution - Asbestos Waste".

**Clean the work area** and floor with damp rags (never dry sweep the floor) and dispose of the rags in the bag with the other hazardous waste material.

Bring the sealed container to the **Hazardous Waste Storage Area, building # 147**, Conn Barracks (Operation Hours: Tuesdays 0900-1500 hrs or by appointment)



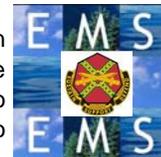
### EMS Management Review



USAG Schweinfurt has implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS). This is a structured and ongoing approach to environmental management, a declared commitment to environmental protection and sustainability performance.

The annual EMS audit took place from 21 to 23 September 2010, conducted by experienced environmental personnel of USAG Ansbach and USAG Bamberg. During these audits, the whole system is assessed by external parties. The overall result of the audit was that the Garrison's EMS is fence-line to fence-line and conforms to nearly all requirements of the international ISO 14001 standard which forms the basis of our EMS. Need for improvement was identified for EMS training and the operational control of EMS aspects in Garrison contracts.

As a second regular step of assessing the EMS, the Management Review was conducted on 22 November 2010. During these annual meetings the efficiency of the EMS is assessed by the Garrison's management, including the Garrison Commander. The purpose of the reviews is to evaluate the progress and development of environmental management over the past year and to establish improvement objectives for the next 12 months.



### Merry Christmas from the Environmental Division



In Advent season when you're thinking of buying presents for your loved ones, it's also time to think of the environment. In the US, 5 million extra tons of trash are generated between Thanksgiving and the New Year!

- Buy environmentally friendly products such as energy efficient electronics and gifts without unnecessary packaging.
- Use wrapping paper and Christmas cards with recycled paper content or send your cards via e-mail.
- Use energy-efficient LED (light-emitting diode) decorative lighting and switch off any electric Christmas decorations during the daytime and when you are not at home.
- Pass any unwanted presents on to your local charity shop (e.g. the Thrift Shop or Freecycle Center) - there is sure to be someone who will like them!



This newsletter also appears online at <http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil/> For older editions see the archive at [http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil/directorates/dpw/environmental/environmental\\_newsletter.htm](http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil/directorates/dpw/environmental/environmental_newsletter.htm)

