

## The ZOLLERN Plant Fire Brigade informs



The comrades of the plant fire brigade were united at the vaccination appointment at the district vaccination centre in Hohentengen, Germany.

**9 Members receive vaccination against the Coronavirus**

After the fire brigades were included in the prioritisation for vaccination by decree of the state as of 19 April, nine members of the plant fire brigade (Laucherthal and Herbertingen) were able to pick up their first vaccination dose at the district vaccination centre on 22 May.

In the run-up to the event, people were asked who had already been vaccinated or who would like to be vaccinated in this way.

When the nine members have had their second vaccination appointment and thus have full vaccination protection two weeks later, 80 per cent of the active members of the site fire brigade will be fully vaccinated.

Since then, all practice runs have been suspended due to the coronavirus requirements.

Nevertheless, of course, assignments were mastered, but the longer the practise run break lasted, the more small mistakes crept in.

For this reason, they are now happy to have been able to start practise runs again since the beginning of June,

initially in groups of a maximum of ten people and of course with masks and socially distanced.

After the summer holiday, from mid-September, normal practise runs are planned again.



At the practise run restart, the basics are first worked out again in the group work in both sections.

This will give the plant fire brigade a completely different perspective from mid-July at the latest, whether for practise runs or comradesly activities.

**Practise runs restart after six-month break**

As with many other fire brigades, the last group practise runs of the ZOLLERN plant fire brigade took place in October last year.

Although masks will certainly still have to be worn, it will be possible to practise on a larger scale again, also due to the high vaccination rate of the active members.

**Plant fire brigade faces up to climate change**

Although the impacts of climate change are still relatively minor in the region, they are also discernible here. The plant fire brigade also notices this in its operations.



During an exercise, the flood protection system was already set up and withstood even directly approaching water. This means that accumulation heights of 50 cm are possible.

Ten years ago, the number of severe weather calls with heavy rain was still small, but now there are one or more calls with this alarm signal almost every year.

This is not only because there are higher temperatures in summer and warm air can store more moisture, which then falls as heavy rain in unstable weather conditions.

Another influencing factor is that the storm cells no longer move at such high speeds and assume a greater extent.

This means that a storm stays in one place longer and the amount of rain that falls is higher. This not only overloads the sewage system, but if this storm continues for several days and the soil is saturated with moisture, it cannot absorb any more moisture.

As a result, the precipitation is carried away on the surface, which leads to additional flooding.

This risk was also confirmed by the heavy rain risk management of the municipality of Sigmaringendorf for parts of the Laucherthal plant site. With this data, the plant fire brigade has developed an operational plan to counter such hazards.

In order to check the plan, the engineering office that prepared the heavy rain risk management for the municipality of Sigmaringendorf was involved and the developed measures were presented.

Improvements were identified, especially in the area of advance warning.

The system that was proposed is in use at Audi in Neckarsulm, among other places, and shows good results there, which was confirmed when asked by colleagues at the Neckarsulm plant fire brigade.

At the moment, an alternative system is also being considered.

After many tests of different options, sandbags were not chosen.

A system originally from Scandinavia is being used.

The system, which consists of plastic angles, is much quicker to set up than sandbags and only needs to be cleaned after use, not disposed of.

This allows water masses to be drained before they enter a building, in our case into the plant channel or the Lauchert.

By the middle of next year, these measures and other structural measures will be implemented so that the company is best prepared for climate change and its consequences and does not have to fear any loss of production.

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