



# Oak Processionary Moth

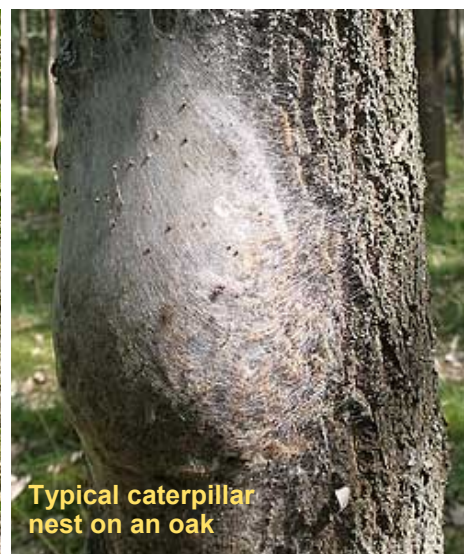
## *Eichenprozessionsspinner*



Caterpillars  
on an oak



A trail of caterpillars



Typical caterpillar  
nest on an oak

### ***Dangerous pests found at USAG Ansbach!***

The **Oak Processionary** is a moth whose caterpillars are found only on oak trees. They are considered a pest that can be a hazard to the health of not only oak trees, but humans and animals. The caterpillars have thousands of tiny hairs that contain an irritating substance called *thaumetopoein*. These barbed hairs can be blown about by the wind, and upon contact, can cause itchy skin rashes, eye and throat irritations, and, less commonly, breathing difficulties in people and animals. Each caterpillar can have about 1000 of these barbed hairs. Community members are reminded to **STAY AWAY** from the caterpillars and the nests, as those can contain thousands of shed hairs.

The greatest risk period is May through July. USAG Ansbach has hired pest control professionals to safely remove the nests.



### ***How do I protect myself & my family?***

- **Know how** to recognize oak trees, caterpillars, and their nests and trails.
- **Stay away** from caterpillars and nests.
- **Teach** your children to stay away.
- **Keep** your pets away. Animals can suffer considerable distress from hairs in their mouths and noses.
- **Do not** try removing nests or caterpillars yourself!
- **Immediately** take a shower and wash all clothing in case of contact.
- **See** a pharmacist if you need relief from a skin and eye irritation following a possible contact.
- **Contact a vet** if your pet has been affected.



Typical oak leaf

**Never approach or touch the nests or the caterpillars. Report any nests or caterpillars to DPW Pest Control at 587-1629 or 09641-70-587-1629.**

### ***Questions?***

**USAG Ansbach**  
**DPW-Environmental Management Division/Natural Resources**  
**Phone: CIV 09641-70-587-1674; DSN 587-1674**