

For immediate release

Koehler Group Supports the Baden-Württemberg State Firefighters' Days in Kehl

- **State Firefighters' Days Appeal to Public to Raise Awareness About the Fire Service**
- **Meet the Koehler Company Fire Brigades from Kehl and Oberkirch**
- **First Ever Company Fire Brigade in the Ortenau Region with 150 Members**

Oberkirch, 7/24/2023 – The State Firefighters' Days in Baden-Württemberg are held every five years by the Baden-Württemberg State Fire Service Association. The event appeals to the public in order to raise awareness about the work done by fire services. The State Firefighters' Days are a welcome gathering for all fire brigades in Baden-Württemberg. The Koehler Group supported this year's event and attended with its own fire truck belonging to the company fire brigade in Kehl. Attendees got the chance to learn more about the unique history of the oldest company fire brigade in the Ortenau region, as well as about what it is like to work for Koehler in Kehl.

Meet the First Ever Company Fire Brigade in the Ortenau Region

A diverse program of fringe events was also on offer. Renowned speakers gave lectures on a broad range of current issues in relation to fire brigades, their operations, and much more. Joachim Uhl, mill director of the Koehler Paper site in Kehl, was delighted by the response to the event: "It was great to be able to impress visitors with our very well-trained company fire brigade and give them all a little more insight into the fascinating world of Koehler." Above all, Uhl also emphasized the enthusiasm and commitment that the members of the company fire brigade bring to the table. The family company was particularly keen on attracting potential future employees, as people who are firefighters themselves or are interested in fire-fighting tend to have an affinity for technical careers, too.

The Koehler Group founded the first ever company fire brigade in the Ortenau region in 1922. The task of the 150 people who are currently part of the forces at the Oberkirch and Kehl sites is to provide 24/7 emergency assistance. This includes protecting employees as well as safeguarding the paper production facilities themselves. Environmental protection drills and operations as well as technical assistance are also growing in importance. The event was topped off by a range of exhibitions and presentations about modern technology and specialist subjects as well as historical vehicles and devices.

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Comprehensive Training of Company Firefighters Guarantees High Quality

The Koehler company firefighters are trained to an extremely high level. Anyone who wishes to join the company fire brigade must undergo a comprehensive training program. The mandatory part of the program covers basic training, voice radio operator training, respiratory equipment carrier training, heat training, and the bronze achievement badge. This is followed by part two of the fire officer training, then finally fire captain training.

The camaraderie between firefighters often lasts a lifetime and is what binds a brigade together. Whether it's saving people or fighting fires, every operation comes down to the wire. That bolsters team spirit and forges strong bonds between firefighters. This camaraderie is also a particularly prominent feature of the Koehler fire brigade. In addition to carrying out operations, drills, and training and earning achievement badges, the members of the brigade also regularly meet off-duty. Vibrant exchanges are also held with the local fire brigades in the municipalities and cities adjacent to the Koehler sites, including with regard to regular drills.



Figure: The Koehler Group's stand at the event alongside the company fire brigades from Kehl and Oberkirch. Source: Koehler Group

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About the Koehler Group

The Koehler Group was founded in 1807 and has been family-run from that moment to the present day. The group's core business activity lies in the development and production of high-quality specialty paper. This includes—among others—thermal paper, playing card board, drinks coasters, fine paper, carbonless paper, recycled paper, decor paper, wood pulp board, sublimation papers, and also innovative specialty papers for the packaging industry since 2019. In Germany, the Koehler Group employs around 2,500 people across five production sites, with three additional sites in the USA. The group operates internationally, with an export share of around 75% in 2022, and brings in an annual turnover of around 1.3 billion euros.

As an energy-intensive company, Koehler invests in renewable energy projects such as wind energy, hydropower, photovoltaics, and biomass with its Koehler Renewable Energy business unit. The Koehler Group has set a goal of producing more energy from renewable sources by 2030 than is required for its paper production operations.

With its Koehler Innovative Solutions division, Koehler is collaborating with start-ups to promote innovations in the core business segments “paper” and “renewable energy.”

Find more information at: <https://www.koehler.com>

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