



Press Release

Adjusted Security Concept for the Oktoberfest 2016

Joint press release of the Department of Labor and Economic Development and the Department of Public Security and Order following the press conference “Security Concept Oktoberfest” on August 17, 2016

The security concept for the Oktoberfest is updated annually. In consideration of current events, the concept for the Oktoberfest 2016 needed to be reassessed. As a result, security experts have developed a number of important changes.

A summary of the most significant modifications for the Oktoberfest 2016:

- Backpacks and heavy bags are strictly forbidden,
- a corresponding check is performed at all entrances,
- in addition, access controls and luggage checks (of smaller bags) may be performed there,
- the open flank at the slopeside along Theresienhöhe is closed by means of a security fence in order to prevent avoidance of the checks,
- the entrance at the Theresienwiese subway stop is modified in such a manner that no guests are able to enter the festival area unchecked.

Details of the changes in the security concept:

In order to enforce the prohibition of backpacks and large bags, any piece of baggage exceeding a capacity of three liters may not be taken onto the festival grounds. Exceptions will be granted in the case of legitimate requests, for example for service staff, persons with health restrictions, sports marksmen as well as participants of the festival parade. Small purses continue to be generally permitted. Baggage storage facilities will be established around the festival grounds.

The prohibition of backpacks and bags will be checked by security staff at the entrances to the festival area. The number of the security personnel will be significantly increased for this purpose. At peak times up to 450 security stewards will be on duty at the same time. The city will considerably raise its contribution to finance and staffing in the security partnership at the Oktoberfest.

In order to prevent unchecked baggage from entering the festival grounds, the remaining open area of the slopeside along Theresienhöhe will be closed by means of a flexible fence. The security fence can be opened in less than one minute.

The situation on the square in front of the Theresienwiese subway stop at the festival grounds will be modified. The flow of visitors will be guided by security staff, signposts and a fence from this exit to Bavariaring. From there guests will reach the known entrances.

The prohibition of backpacks will be included in the Oktoberfest Regulations. As in the past, prams are generally not allowed on Saturdays and the "Day of German Unity" (all day) as well as on all other days after 6pm. The following items also continue to be forbidden: glass bottles, aerosol spray cans with damaging contents, caustic and coloring substances as well as objects that may be used as cutting, thrusting and stabbing weapons.

Statements regarding the adjusted security concept:

The Chief Executive of the Department of Labor and Economic Development,
Mayor **Josef Schmid**:

"I am glad that all involved parties succeeded in agreeing on a consistent security concept for the Oktoberfest. With this adjusted concept we draw lessons from recent events without changing the basic character of the Wiesn. The required

prohibition of bags and backpacks can only be implemented if uncontrolled access to the festival grounds is not possible. For this sole reason it is necessary to close the open flank at the slopeside along Theresienhöhe. This is done by a security fence which can be withdrawn in less than a minute. Quick escape routes thus continue to be ensured.”

Chief Executive of the Department of Public Security and Order **Dr. Thomas Böhle**:

“In view of recent events, following the shooting rampage at the OEZ and especially after the bomb attack in Ansbach, we subjected the concept of the Oktoberfest to close scrutiny. Our joint objective has been to increase security at the Oktoberfest by accounting for the altered situation. The prohibition of large bags and backpacks on the festival grounds is an important component in this context. Regrettably there is no guarantee of absolute security in this world.”