Evacuation Plan

"We took our turf-care facility floor plan blueprint, had it reduced to an 8-1/2 by 14-inch size, had it professionally laminated and then mounted a color-coded copy in every room," said New Albany superintendent Anthony S. (Tony) Mancuso.

"Each official exit is color-coded pink, meaning that the door is not locked from the inside. The blue color-coding is for any doors that are locked from the inside that are not an exit. Each official exit has an exit sign on or above the door, and the blue-colored doors have a conspicuous sign reading "Not an Exit" on the door above it.

"Our building," Mancuso said, "is designed as such that some of our offices have an exterior door leading outside but it is not accessible as an exit because the interior door leading into the office from within the facility may be locked.

"This procedure takes the guesswork out of whether an employee or visitor should use or not use any door in the facility.

"We wanted to be in compliance, be morally responsible to our employees and guests, and for liability as well as legal reasons."

Near each exit door are rechargeable emergency lights for safety as per local building codes.

These lights must be checked monthly as the rechargeable batteries will wear out frequently. Also, signs on every door state what the room is used for and whether it is an exit or leads to an exit, Mancuso said.

A list of checks from Mancuso

New Albany superintendent Anthony S. (Tony) Mancuso offers the following checklist for mechanics and other key employees to use monthly, or more frequently if needed.

1. Drain air compressor of water.
2. Check fire extinguishers and date and initial tag.
3. Check and test emergency lighting.
4. Check and test smoke detectors and change batteries when clocks advance.
5. Check that lock out-tag outs are properly marked and working.
6. Check that exit sign light bulbs are working.
7. Check inventory for employees' safety glasses.

EPA issues regs for state plans

PHOENIX, Ariz. — The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued its long-awaited regulation on State Management Plans (SMPs). Many states have been working on their plans, which must be submitted and approved by the EPA for users in those states to be able to continue to buy and use certain pesticides identified as probable or possible human carcinogens.

Designed to prevent pesticide contamination of ground water, the rule now covers five pesticides: metolachlor, simazine, atrazine, alachlor and cyanazine. Golf courses use simazine, a pre-emergent broadleaf and grassy weed control, and metachlor, used for woody ornamentals.

According to the EPA notice, the core of an acceptable SMP will be its program of managing pesticide use in order to prevent contamination.

The actual measures employed may range from education of users and adoption of best management practices (e.g., regulation of application rates, methods and timing), to use prohibitions in specific areas.

We call it commitment. Others call it obsession. Whatever name you give it, we are talking about fulfilling a promise. We promise to provide you with equipment to meet your demands; with service organized around a global network of dealers for quick response; and with products designed to help you fit 15 hours of work into 8. Every product in our full lineup is a manifestation of our promise: the world famous Turf-Trackster, ultraprecise greens mowers, productive fairway mowers, the industry's highest quality aerators and dozens of versatile attachments.

Ransomes, Cushman and Ryan equipment will produce results you can measure if perfection is your standard. For a free demo, call 1-800-228-4444.