OSHA pushes case for ergonomics

By Mark Leslie

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Arguing that ergonomics is the solution, not the problem, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) ergonomics coordinator defended the agency's work to define guidelines for the workplace.

"Our Congressional mandate is to prevent injury and illness in the workplace," said Nancy Adams. "The way the debate gets framed, ergonomics is the problem. But it's not. It's an intervention strategy to prevent the injury from happening, by good engineering, good process design, fitting the job to the worker and not the worker to the job. You can't do that as one-size-fits-all."

OSHA's push into the realm of ergonomics is not new. The first ergonomist joined the agency in 1979, and talks with labor, trade associations and professional organizations began in the early 1980s. But the business

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Irri-Tech on board with Smart Rain

By M. Levans

KOMOKA, Ontario, Canada — Irri-Tech Distribution Inc. is the latest on Smart Rain Corp.'s growing list of distributors for its new irrigation control system package that allows superintendents hand-by-head sprinkler control.

The assets in the merger transaction will include the golf courses, the resort operation assets and developed and undeveloped land, but will exclude the hotels which are individ-

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Golf Trust adds $79M. to the kitty

By Bob Spiwak

GRAND FORKS, N.D. — The Red River has receded into its banks after cataclysmic flooding this spring, but golf courses in the Red River Valley are still struggling to get back to normal.

In the Grand Forks area alone, damage estimates are around $8 billion, and not one golf course is fully operating again. Courses are still tallying up the damage with Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) — not only for facilities but lost revenues in an area where an estimated 80 percent of the population plays golf.

At Lincoln Park, a municipal facility run by the Grand Forks Park District, superintendent Steve Mulhally said 60 acres of the 18-hole course will have to be reseeded, and nine of the holes

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Grand Forks Country Club was under water for 20 days. Superintendent Mark Bergstrom figures at least $250,000 damage was done there.

The course lost five fairways, and has been re-configured to a nine-hole venue. The day before the flood reached its peak, Bergstrom and crew boated to the maintenance shop and emptied the chemical building, putting the materials on a tarp and moving it and the equipment to a green on higher ground. He had everything moveable on the floor put on shelving 18 inches off the floor. The waters rose to 17 inches.

At Edgewood, Lindberg had the fertilizer shed sandbagged, which saved the contents. Despite billions of dollars in damages, the cost to the human psyche has been phenomenal, and probably longer-lasting. Bob Leach, owner of the Golf Center driving range in Grand Forks, said his business is better than ever. He attributed this to people coming to combat stress and take their minds off their troubles as well as to possibly relieve some aggression.

Without a trace of self-sympathy, he said: "We live in a 52-year-old house which never had a drop of water in it through past floods until this year. It completely flooded the basement and we had 4 inches in the upper level. (Many Dakotans center their living in finished basements, especially during the windy, sub-zero winters.) "The water was 8 feet higher than ever before in history." 

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Floods
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Leach said. "You look out on the collection berms around this town — there are 17,000 washers and dryers, 17,000 hot-water heaters, 17,000 furnaces, as many electrical services and some people are still without electricity."

But, he noted, "Golf is still alive and well here in North Dakota.

Leach has regripped "thousands and thousands of clubs this year," as they were recovered from homes after the flood. Because FEMA will not allow relocation in a flood plain, which was virtually all the area this spring, Leach estimated that 15 percent of the population (about 80,000) will have to relocate.

What he finds rewarding is the manner in which people have been helping others: "There they are, working 15 hours a day assisting someone else when their own homes have been destroyed, or their businesses were flooded, then burned in the fire [which destroyed half of downtown Grand Forks]," he said.

"Maybe," Leach added, "it's because there are so many Norwegians here. They're tough and resilient — and they look out for others."

Grand Fork, N.D.'s Lincoln Park GC, where all 18 holes were flooded.

Toledo golf market widens

TOLEDO, Ohio — The fast-improving Toledo public golf scene will gain a new player with the scheduled opening of The Legacy early this month.

The Legacy, designed by Arthur Hills, is an upscale, daily-fee, layout just over the Ohio-Michigan line near Ottawa Lake, Mich. The Legacy will be the area's highest-priced course, with an 18-hole round costing $30 on weekdays and $35 weekends.

Golfers will get to play the only true island green around, a par-3 measuring anywhere from 96 to 155 yards with a 6,700-square-foot, humpbacked surface.

GCSAA says 'It's gotta be the shoes'

BROCKTON, Mass. — Etonic Worldwide has signed a three-year partnership agreement with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) that makes Etonic's Dri-Lite Series golf shoes the official "superintendent's shoe."

"Clearly there is a synergy between Etonic and GCSAA," said Bill Kirkendall, Etonic Worldwide's president. "By working in conjunction with the people responsible for maintaining golf courses nationwide, Etonic will gain input that will allow the company to produce golf shoes that are best suited for today's golf courses."

Corrections

An article in the June issue incorrectly reported the location of the new $230 million Kingdom of the Evergreen Forest golf resort being planned by Illinois developer Bryan Clayton. The development would be located in Poynette, Wis.

In the story on Pursell Industries Inc. on page 54 of the June issue, the correct name of the company's controlled-release fertilizer technology is Polyon.

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