



BRIEFS

CAROLINAS GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION APPOINTS BARTON

LIBERTY, S.C. — Julian S. Barton, CAE, has been appointed as the new executive director of the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association. Barton spent the past decade with the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, which represents the interests of the agricultural community by providing education and representation in government affairs. Based in Columbia, he was assistant to the president for development, overseeing a \$4 million budget. He also served as their director of government relations. Barton joined the Carolinas GCSA this month replacing Chuck Borman, CAE, who is the new chief operating officer for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.



Julian S. Barton

HAMILTON JOINS THE DUNES GOLF AND BEACH CLUB

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — The Dunes Golf and Beach Club has named Stephen Hamilton as golf course superintendent. Hamilton's responsibilities will include maintaining the golf course, supervising maintenance staff and serving as a club liaison to the Dunes Golf and Beach Club's green committee. Hamilton joins the Dunes Club from The Country Club of North Carolina in Pinehurst, N.C., where he was golf course superintendent. There he supervised the recent reconstruction of the club's Dogwood course, a project that encompassed 18 green complexes, tees and fairway bunkers.

IGM SIGNS CRAIG RANCH GC

CHAMPIONSGATE, Fla. — International Golf Maintenance (IGM) has reached a maintenance agreement with Craig Ranch Golf Course, located in North Las Vegas, Nev. The 18-hole Craig Ranch Golf Course was designed by J.C. Stimson in 1962. Danny Smith, who was an assistant superintendent at Craig Ranch for 18 years, took over the superintendent position from his father in 1998. With the Craig Ranch agreement, IGM now maintains some 100 courses across the country.

Superintendents reshape state water restrictions

By ANDREW OVERBECK

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Following the drought of 1999 when sudden water restrictions forced golf courses in parts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey to cut irrigation use by as much as 90 percent, superintendents in both states teamed up with other green industry partners to retool drought emergency rules.

Working closely with each state's department of environmental protection, the industry has achieved or is close to achieving new water restrictions

lands Golf Club, the vague restrictions that the Pennsylvania DEP put forth in the summer of 1999 simply created confusion.

"The drought regulations opened the door to the people who were going to abuse them or ignore them altogether," said Wall. "Some guys got screwed for cutting back because their courses went brown while others who ignored it had green turf."

Spurred on by the late Dave Rafferty who was the superintendent at Chambersburg Coun-



Bill Wall's Dauphin Highlands Golf Club in Harrisburg, Pa.

that will not negatively impact golf courses. The three years of hard work is already paying off, as 26 counties in Pennsylvania and all of New Jersey have declared drought emergencies.

SUCCESS IN PENNSYLVANIA

According to superintendent Bill Wall here at Dauphin High-

lands Golf Club, Wall put together a group of superintendents from across the state and the DEP held meetings to discuss flaws in the regulations.

"They didn't have any golf course experts," Wall said. "This stuff is a different language to

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Editorial Focus: Safety and Accessories

Risk management plan can prevent accidents, litigation

By TED HORTON, CGCS

Golf can be a dangerous sport and the potential for danger from negligent design and maintenance exists on many courses. Golf car mishaps, environmental concerns, slips and falls throughout the property, maintenance equipment accidents and exposure to weather can all result in serious injury to golfers, guests and employees.

Considering our litigious society and the fact that insurance rates have escalated since Sept. 11, it has become even more important to implement a sound risk management program to help prevent injuries and property damage, as well as to protect against liability.

Courses should first inventory areas of potential liability. These include four basic areas: premises, operations, vehicles and natural causes. By no means is the following list all-encompassing. Examine your own operations and list every possibility for exposure to accident or injury and review the checklist quarterly.

PREMISES

Risks are abundant throughout a golf course property both on and off the course.

- Examine course design for defects. Are balls entering private properties, roads or adjacent holes? Are there blind tee shots, dangerous doglegs or other places of concern? Are waiting areas adjacent to tees safe? Remember that 85

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Moss hits Colorado hard, more research needed

By KEVIN ROSS, CGCS

DENVER — A recent symposium here brought superintendents from across Colorado together to discuss the sudden invasion of moss on greens. The problem is clearly widespread, as more than 140 superintendents attended the meeting to learn more about how to combat the rapidly spreading bryophyte. There are still, however, more questions than answers.

The symposium featured Dr. Tony Koski from Colorado State University; Matt Nelson from the United States Golf

Association's Green Section; Matt Giese from Syngenta; and John Wynne from Bio-Safe Systems. Rusty Oetker from Soil Solutions also held a roundtable discussion. The group presented information about the spread of moss, various research efforts, and possible control options.

According to Dr. Koski, controlling moss is difficult for three central reasons.

"Moss is a very resilient and tough plant and we don't really know that much about it because there has been little hardcore research done," said Koski. "It is also very difficult to selectively eradicate."

In Colorado, the moss plant on greens has been identified as Silvery Thread moss or *B. argenteum*

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Treated moss (left), and untreated moss (right)

Flowtronex study quantifies water quality concerns

DALLAS — Pump station manufacturer Flowtronex recently conducted a survey of 603 randomly selected golf course superintendents to determine their attitudes toward and awareness of water quality issues and solutions. The study purposely targeted areas of the United States known for having high pH, carbonates and bicarbonates, excessive algae growth, etc.

The study was overseen by Flowtronex's director of marketing Tom Levey.

The following results were collected:

- Overall, 63.3 percent stated they are concerned about water quality. Seventy-six point three percent said pH is critical to soil health and 64.5 percent said they are concerned about government regulations.

- When asked unaided about water treatment options, pH control topped the list at 36 percent, but 32 percent of respondents said they could not think of any water

quality treatments. Other options listed included: aeration, filtration, fertigation, ozone injection and biological treatments.

- One-quarter (26 percent) of superintendents do not test their water quality while another 47 percent test it less than once a month.

- Most (81.6 percent) use a lake or pond for irrigation water

on their course and the average number of pump stations used by a facility is 2.2 (although the majority, 59 percent, have only one).

- Eighty-eight percent of all respondents had some level of familiarity with liquid fertilizers.

- Seventy-two percent use both liquid and granular fertilizers on their courses. Although most don't feel strongly that either type is definitely better than the other, superintendents with an opinion prefer liquid fertilizers to granular (29.7 percent to 19.3 percent, respectively).



Effective safety program begins with proper equipment

When it comes to meeting government mandated safety regulations for grounds workers, most superintendents know the basics. Many safety precautions are common sense – you need hearing protection when working around noisy equipment and you need safety goggles when working with mowing, weed-eating or chainsaw equipment.

However, it is important to periodically review your work environment to identify specific hazards that your employees are exposed to and make sure you have a good understanding of the minimum safety requirements mandated by law.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires employers to provide a workplace that is free from recognized health and safety hazards and to protect employees from those hazards when and where they occur. State laws vary and may be more stringent.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Federal Insecticide, Rodenticide and Fungicide Act relates to pesticide use and establishes the Worker Protection Standard

(WPS) that applies to pesticide application activities such as mixing, loading, application and cleanup. It also applies to those working in or around treated areas and establishes restricted entry intervals for each pesticide and the minimum personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to handle and apply each product.

The following list provides safety equipment recommendations for activities around the golf course that warrant proper safety procedures.

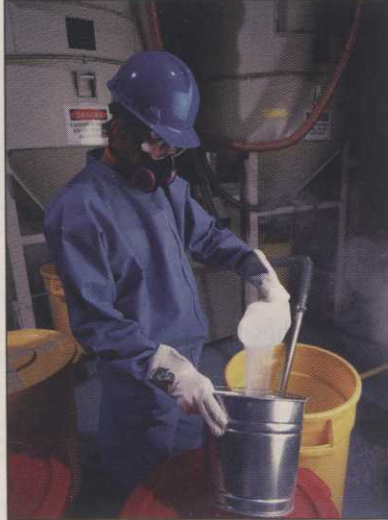
LOUD EQUIPMENT
• Earplugs with a suitable decibel rating, reusable or disposable,

corded or uncorded. A higher decibel rating (26dB - 31dB) covers all applications if using a variety of equipment.

• Eye protection should include ANSI-approved, UV-filtering safety glasses with impact protection, preferably with peripheral side protection.

• Teflon-coated chainsaw chaps will stop the blade on contact.

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Respirators, gloves and coveralls are essential equipment when handling chemicals

Reduce accidents

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percent of the golf shots are usually 15 percent off line and that equipment and golf ball improvements result in even longer distances today.

• Ventilation systems in golf car storage buildings, acid storage, battery disposal, energy management and equipment wash facilities are all areas for potential accidents.

• Are golf car paths appropriately located, designed, engineered, constructed and maintained? Is speed controlled and are warning signs posted at hills?

• Pedestrian paths, steps and bridges need to be free from trip and slip hazards.

• Trees are a source of numerous accidents on courses. Inspections should monitor the potential for eye injury from low-hanging branches as well as injury from falling branches.

• Practice range accidents can occur if the range is improperly designed, maintained and operated. Are tee stations adequately separated, are protective barriers in place, and are participants properly controlled?

OPERATIONS

Proper maintenance procedures are required to present the golf course for play, but risk management and safety

should be of equal importance.

• Environmental concerns relative to pesticides, fertilizers, water quality and quantity and energy need to be addressed. Misuse or abuse of these materials can lead to serious damage and significant exposure to liability.

• Golf course construction projects may be a source of accidents. Are open

trenches properly marked? Is every care taken when digging around utilities? Are trenches protected against cave-in? Is your golf course's equipment adequate for the task?

• Waste management and recycling in an appropriate manner can prevent environmental contamination.

• Safety training for general maintenance operations such as mowing, fertilization, irrigation, aeration and topdressing is important for accident prevention.

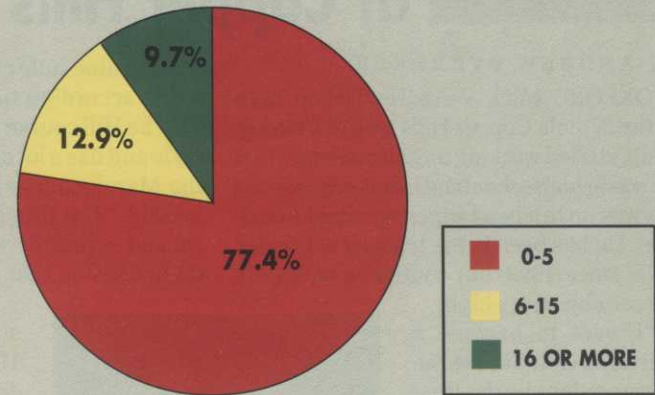
• Personal protective equipment must be provided, fitted and used when required. Current Occupational Safety and Health Administration policies could potentially result in heavy fines being imposed on employers who don't follow the requirements to provide workers with hard hats, goggles, fit-tested respirators and safety spray suits, and other protective gear needed for personal protection.



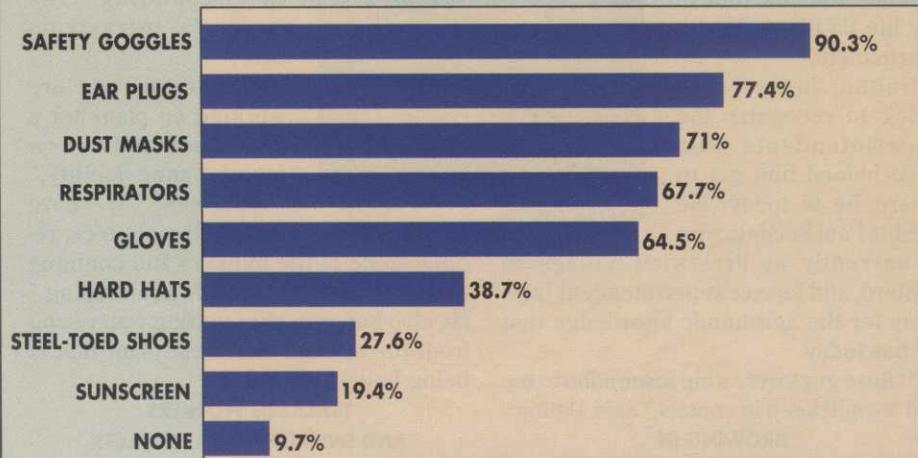
Golf car paths need to be free of trip hazards

GOLF COURSE NEWS NEWS POLL

HOW MANY DAYS DID YOUR STAFF LOSE TO WORK-RELATED INJURIES LAST YEAR?



WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ARE EMPLOYEES REQUIRED TO USE DURING CERTAIN OR ALL ACTIVITIES?



❖ "I have my foreman train all new employees on proper procedure. The other tenured crew will then help to enforce the use of appropriate safety equipment. I do provide all the safety equipment needed, and if an employee would like additional equipment, I will obtain that product."
— Robert Shanholtz, Jr. GCS, Fountain Head CC

❖ "We use videos, hands on training and a company-wide safety committee to enforce our policies. We supply all safety equipment at no cost to employees. Enforcement is quite simple: the first time you get a warning, second you get three days off, and the third, you don't work here anymore."
— Mike Kosak, Director of Agronomy, Lahontan GC

• Repetitive-motion problems are common in golf course maintenance operations. Precautions to avoid injury to employees who hold their wrists, arms or shoulders in odd positions or who frequently perform the same tasks continuously for long periods need to be in place.

VEHICLES

Drivers and passengers of utility vehicles and golf cars need to follow the same precautions as one would in their own motor vehicles.

• Is there a program to verify that state operators licenses are current before the employee is permitted to drive company vehicles on public roads?

• Golf cars carry enormous liability. Be sure that there is a program in place to review and service vehicles prior to each use. Problem vehicles should be kept out-of-service until repaired.

• Employees should be carefully trained before using utility vehicles.

EMERGENCIES, NATURAL DISASTERS AND WEATHER

Preparing to manage unforeseen emergencies is the first and most important step to recovery, should a disaster strike.

• Having written emergency response guidelines ensures that employees un-

derstand their duties and responsibilities and may significantly reduce liability in the event of a natural disaster.

• Defibrillators belong on golf courses where cardiac arrests occur. It may soon be a greater liability risk for businesses that fail to purchase and use automated external defibrillators.

• Employees and guests should be adequately trained in fire safety and prevention programs.

• Employees and golfers need to be educated about heat stroke, sunburn and the danger of skin cancer.

• Caution golfers about the presence of poisonous plants, snakes, alligators, fire ants, etc. Evidence of awareness will generally reduce liability awards should a suit result from injury from these hazards.

Effective safety training and risk management programs are not developed overnight. But like it or not, golf course superintendents must consider the tasks of safety training and risk management as the highest priorities within their operations. Zero accidents should be the goal for the entire golf course staff. ■



A driving range accident waiting to happen

Preparation to manage unforeseen emergencies is the first and most important step to recovery, should a disaster strike.

Ted Horton, CGCS is the head of Ted Horton Consulting in Canyon Lake, Calif.