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's 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.
  - Earplugs with a suitable decibel rating (25dB - 31dB) covers all applications if using a variety of equipment.

- **EYE PROTECTION**
  - ANSI-approved, UV-filtering safety glasses with impact protection, preferably with peripheral side protection.

- **RESPIRATORS**
  - Respirators, gloves and coveralls are essential equipment when handling chemicals.

- **STEEL-TOED SHOES**

- **GLOVES**
  - Gloves are essential when handling chemicals.

- **HARD HATS**
  - Hard hats are recommended when working around noisy equipment.

- **DUST MASKS**
  - Dust masks are required when working around dust.

- **GOGGLES**
  - Safety goggles are required when working with mowing, weed-eating or chainsaw equipment.

- **RESPIRATORS**
  - Respirators are required when working around dust.

- **EAR PLUGS**
  - Ear plugs are required when working around loud equipment.

- **DUST MASKS**
  - Dust masks are required when working around dust.

- **GLOVES**
  - Gloves are required when handling chemicals.

- **HARD HATS**
  - Hard hats are required when working around noisy equipment.

- **DISASTERS AND WEATHER**
  - Preparedness is key in managing unforeseen emergencies.

- **ENVIRONMENTAL**
  - Environmental concerns relative to pesticides, fertilizers, water quality and quantity need to be addressed.

- **WASTE MANAGEMENT**
  - Waste management and recycling in an appropriate manner can prevent environmental contamination.

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

- **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**
  - Personal protective equipment must be provided, fitted and used when required. Current Occupational Safety and Health Administration policies could potentially result in hearings if 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.

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

- **HUMAN RESOURCES**
  - Having written emergency response guidelines ensures that employees understand their duties and responsibilities and may significantly reduce liability in the event of a natural disaster.

- **COMPANY CULTURE**
  - 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.

- **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**
  - A driving range accident waiting to happen.

- **AERIAL SAFETY**
  - 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.

- **MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE**
  - 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.

Ted Horton, CGCS is the head of Ted Horton Consulting in Canyon Lake, Calif.
Delaware achieves 100 percent Audubon participation

HOCKESSIN, Del. — The Delaware State Golf Association (DSGA) has become the first state to reach 100 percent participation in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) for golf courses. Through a venture spearheaded by its green section, the DSGA agreed to fund ACSP membership dues for all superintendents in Delaware. The group will fund membership each year to ensure statewide membership, while working with Audubon International to maximize participation in the program.

“We have been working on getting statewide participation for the last six months,” said Kevin Mayhew, superintendent at Newark Country Club. “All of the superintendents believed in the program and wanted to join, but saw the yearly dues as the hurdle.”

The DSGA decided to fund the effort because it recognizes the benefit that the ASCP provides its members.

“We saw this as a natural progression,” said J. Curtis Riley, the executive director of the DSGA. “There is no better way for the golfers of the state to keep the courses up with the latest programs to help protect and enhance the wildlife and

Continued on page 13

Jim Costopulos is president of Compliance Safety Inc., an outdoor safety products distributor.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

WE'RE FLATTERED THAT COMPETITORS KEEP ATTACKING PENDULUM:

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SET THE INDUSTRY STANDARD

FOR EXCELLENCE.