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.

- Earplugs with a suitable decibel rating, reusable or disposable.
- Respirators, gloves and coveralls are essential equipment when handling chemicals.
- Dust masks.
- Hard hats.
- Steel-toed shoes.
- Safety goggles.
- Sunscreen.
- Sunscreen.

Reduce accidents

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