Kelly Johnson Recovering After Fall From Ladder

On the 24th of April, our fellow superintendent Kelly Johnson apparently fell from a ladder and either struck a Cushman or the floor. The result was some badly bruised muscles and a near total loss of memory. Kelly can remember his wife Kathy and son Mason for the most part.

The doctors feel that his brain suffered no permanent damage and a full recovery is forecast with time. He can still do things like read, write and drive a car, etc.

It appears that Kelly was changing light bulbs in his shop, something that most of us would not think twice about doing alone. It is something I will never do alone again.

Kelly’s injury could have happened to any of us. In our profession a ten-hour day or more is the norm during the season. Many of us work seven days a week throughout the season. I know that Kelly had been under tremendous pressure constructing and growing at Oneka Ridge Golf Course. Was his body telling him to slow down?

Dan Murphy, formerly of Wedgewood/Prestwick, has been hired to fill in until Kelly is full recovered. By the date of the publication of this article, Kelly’s physical injuries have healed enough for him to return to work soon. His memory is still intermittent at best.

The only bright spot in this situation was the instant support that Kelly’s family and Oneka Ridge received by many local superintendents. A special thanks goes to Mr. Joe Moris and Mr. Steve Garske for acting as “coordinators” in the efforts to help Kelly’s family and Oneka Ridge.

If there is a moral to all of this, I think it is this: Take a day off with your family once in a while, for your life can change suddenly. The grass will live a day or two without you. Let us all pray for a speedy recovery.

—Tom Parent

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