

## Editorial – Safety

G. Bayor

Mr. L. Rudinski's safety notice, located in this issue, stimulated me into some thoughts I believe all of us should consider. My job as District Superintendent of Parks makes me responsible for 109 employees, which makes my odds for job related accidents pretty high. This year I've had 20 accidents (down 8 from last year) comprising items such as: frostbite, back strains, debris in the eyes, twisted appendages, cut fingers, hand, feet, bruised ribs, heat exhaustion and bee stings. Some of these items might be considered minor, but when you figure it represents a little under 20% of my work force, it indicates that my employees stand a 1 in 5 chance of having an accident. Prevention is the ONLY way to avoid situations that could be costly to both the employee and employer.

How many of you could honestly answer that your safety standards simply include a word of caution and a reliance on the club to provide health insurance. What would be the answer to these questions:

1. Do you or any of your employees hold a Red Cross First Aid Certificate?
2. Do you or any of your employees have cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) knowledge?
3. Do you have any organized safety meetings or discussions?
4. How safe is your grounds equipment?
  - a. Are all of the original guards in place?
  - b. Does your mechanic regularly inspect your equipment for defects/damage, which may be injurious to an employee?
  - c. Do you give PROPER operating instructions to employees?
5. How safe are your buildings?
  - a. Are your fire extinguishers charged and highly visible?
  - b. Are your exits properly marked?
  - c. Does all of your shop equipment (drills, grinders etc.) meet proper OSHA standards?
  - d. Do you have adequate employee clean-up facilities — especially eye wash and showers for chemical applicators?
  - e. Do you provide safe storage for chemicals, supplies and equipment?
6. Do your employees wear proper safety apparel dictated by the job they're doing, or do they wear items more suitable to the prevailing temperature?
7. Do you have a ready list of emergency phone numbers immediately available to your phone?

The answers to these questions do vary according to needs, but I believe all of us should exhibit a desire to provide some protection to the above questions.

1. **First Aid Classes** — Organize one; get in touch with your local Red Cross. If there's a cost involved, won't it be less to the club than a serious accident?
2. **CPR** — is important not only for your employee but also for your golfers playing your course. Again, contact the Red Cross, it's not difficult to learn and it just might *save a life*.
3. **Safety Meetings** — An hour or two once a month for safety discussions could save many lost hours of an injured employee. Get your employees involved to help themselves. What they learn at work will carry over to their home life where it might some day prove invaluable.
4. **Grounds Equipment** — The factory installed safety guards are there for a reason — KEEP them on. I've had to add *extra* guards on some of my mowers due to recent injuries. Keep on top of your equipment. Have your mechanic take responsibility for the equipment's proper operation, regardless of how often employees abuse certain pieces. Also remember that even though employees sometimes are very familiar with a piece of equipment, they do at times forget the proper operating procedure. Take the time to occasionally review procedures before you see unsafe operation. And especially take the time to indoctrinate new employees to safe operating methods.
5. **Buildings** — Every year, somewhere in the US, a golf course maintenance building burns down; can you go for a couple of months without equipment or a few pieces of borrowed equipment? If your building should catch fire, do your employees have alternate means of escape? Make sure all exits and windows are operable and visually available. Check your fire extinguishers. If you haven't experienced an OSHA site visit, then count yourself lucky because more than likely your shop machinery is in violation. Take a small amount of time and really review these pieces. Make sure that your hygiene facilities are up to par: some clubs are installing eyewashes to supplement their sinks and showers, which is definitely a good idea. And lastly, make sure you have proper storage for dangerous items: chemical room with proper shelving, ventilation, lighting and storage procedures; proper safety gas cans, not empty Clorox bottles; specifically designed measuring vials, not coffee cups; and don't forget

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## Miscellaneous Items

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The new Toro distributor will be TURF EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY, located at 6660 Santa Barbara Road, Elkridge, Md. 21227, phone number 796-5575. Mr. Jim Manty is the owner.

A couple of items worth noting from CORNELL CHEMICAL & EQUIPMENT CO., INC.:

Roundup (Monsanto) Herbicide — For those who have not used Roundup but would like to try a little, Roundup will be available in quarts in 1980. (about \$20.00/qt.)

RP-26019 (Rhone Poulenc) Fungicide — Now Chipco 26019. Fully labeled for use on turf. During 1979, first year of use, results were outstanding, even though the year was exceptionally wet.

Anyone interested in equipment trades — I need an old topdresser; I'm willing to trade a 1968 76" Professional

(Toro) in running order or a 1973 Ryan Ren-O-Thin in good shape or a 1971 Devere 31 Rotary Mower (similar to walk behind Gravely). Call me at 396-6101.

Merrill Frank at Baltimore CC has just installed a new irrigation system and now has plenty of extra hose and walking sprinklers that he'd be interested in selling or trading. Interested parties should call 252-0110.

Ken Braun at Bonnie View CC would be interested in trading 40 gallons of Caddy (5 gal cans) and 10 gallons of Methar 30 for other chemicals. Ken's number is 486-2054.

Any time anyone has anything to sell or trade, be sure to use your newsletter. I recently made a trade with Gary Phillips, Chartwell Golf & CC, which I'm sure both of us feel that we made a good deal. Find something you're not using anymore and may be you'll be surprised to find someone who needs it.

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an Underwriters' approved rag-can to prevent that ideal starting point for fires.

6. **Proper Apparel** — Too many employees, especially summer help, like to wear the least amount of clothing while working. Encourage proper apparel if not demand it. Safety hats, goggles, gloves, steel toed shoes, long sleeves, long pants, respirators, all have the proper place and time; it's up to the supervisor to make the best use of this equipment.

7. **Emergency Phone Numbers** — This is a very simple item that I'd hazard a guess that most golf courses don't have next to their phones. Take 5 minutes and make one up: it may save 15 minutes towards some emergency.

Perhaps much of this will be things you already do and that's something to be proud of. Participation in proper safety measures makes all the difference in what the outcome will be when an accident/emergency occurs. The one thing you can be sure of: sooner or later you WILL have an accident/emergency, the "later" depends entirely on you.



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