

— IRONWOOD COUNTRY CLUB vs OSHA

On May 14, 1984, Ironwood Country Club appealed a decision made by the OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health) board and basically lost the appeal.

The original decision was based on a visit from OSHA representative Marvin G. Meyer to Ironwood Country Club on December 21, 1983. After an extremely thorough inspection, Mr. Meyer determined that the Toro Parkmaster in use by Ironwood was unsafe because it didn't have a rollbar.

A citation was issued fining Ironwood and stipulating the addition of roll-bars to their seven Toro Parkmasters. The cost of this addition is estimated at \$15,000.

Before the appeal in May, a Safety Engineer from Toro was consulted. He testified to the safety and HIGH improbability of a Toro Parkmaster ever rolling over and confirmed that an accident of this nature has NEVER been reported. Mike McGehee also testified to the use of this large mower and to the central gravity of the main unit.

The appeals board dropped the fine but ruled that Ironwood must put roll-bars on all Toro Parkmaster units. The Board's decision was based on the 1976 ruling that any self-propelled tractor over 20 horsepower requires a roll-bar. Instead of saying "my Toro Parkmaster Mower" you will refer to it as a "tractor" from now on.

It is hearsay that the OSHA representative intends to verify the safety of EVERY Golf Course from Bakersfield, California to the Mexican Border.

The purpose of this article is to inform every course Superintendent to be prepared for this FRIENDLY type of visit.

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editor David Lozoya

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| AUTOMATIC RAIN CO - Willard Hayes 4060 Campbell Avenue Menlo Park 94025 | GOLFCO - John Engen P. O. Box 501 Chico 95927 |
| A. L. CASTLE OF STOCKTON, INC. 5700 Cherokee Road Stockton 95205 | INTERNATIONAL SEEDS INC. 820 First Street Halsey, OREGON 97348 |
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