

**From the Keynoter Penn. Turf Grass Council
EXPLOSION HAZARD: A CHARGING BATTERY**

Auto and tractor batteries, while they are being re-charged, can explode. These explosions can shower you with the acid from the battery, so you should use caution around them.

Bob Durland, South Dakota State University extension agricultural engineer, says the act of charging a battery generates hydrogen gas in the battery. The proper mixture of hydrogen and oxygen is, of course, explosive. You all probably know this; but what you may not know is how little hydrogen this takes. Durland says as little as 4 percent hydrogen in the air is all that is needed to form an explosive mixture. Explosions of this gas mixture can shatter the battery case and send pieces of shrapnel through the air along with the acid that was inside the battery.

It is very important to keep ignition sources away from batteries while charging them. Obviously, do not smoke. But also be careful of sparks from connecting or removing terminal cables, Durland says.

Here are the procedures that Durland recommends you follow to minimize the risk of sparks that might set off an explosion:

When "boosting" a battery remove the cell caps from both batteries. Connect the positive (+) terminals of the two batteries first, making the first terminal connection to the live battery. Then make the negative (-) connection to the live battery. This next point is where mistakes are made. Don't connect the negative cable to the negative terminal of the dead battery. Instead, connect it to the frame, bumper, engine block, or some other good grounding spot away from the battery so that if a spark does occur it will not be near the battery (the area of the emitted gas).

When charging a battery remove the cell caps. Connect the charger to the terminals of the battery (positive to positive, negative to negative) before you plug the charger into the electrical outlet. When disconnecting the charger, reverse the procedure. Unplug the charger first, then disconnect the terminal connections.

**MIDWEST REGIONAL TURF FOUNDATION
W. H. Daniel**

Re: Midwest Turf Field Day, September 30, 1974

Our Field Day will be Monday, September 30 — 9:30 - 4:00 p.m. We would be pleased to have you list it in programs or inform members at monthly meetings.

Proceedings Available

For \$2.00 the Proceedings of the 1974 Midwest Regional Turf Conference, just printed, is available by mail from:

W. H. Daniel
Midwest Regional Turf Foundation
Department of Agronomy
Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907

49 articles, condensed into 101 pages, provides excellent reference on current turf information. Proceedings from the 1972, 1971 and 1969 Conferences are also available at the same price.

Those members of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation (316) attending the Conference in 1974 or others attending (750) should receive their copies of the 1974 Proceedings—mailed in mid-July.

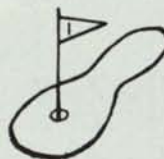


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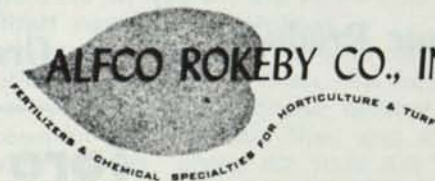
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