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Tornados

Tornados Turn Hope into Despair

Of all the winds that sweep the earth, tornadoes are the most violent. Their time is short and their destructive paths are small. But these short-lived storms create terrible destruction in populated areas. In seconds, a tornado can transform a thriving street into a ruin; and hope into despair.

Tornadoes may occur at any hour of the day or night but, because of the meteorological combinations creating them, they form most readily during the warmest hours of the day. The greatest number of tornadoes, 82 percent of the total, occur between noon and midnight. The greatest single concentration, 23 percent of total tornado activity, falls between 4 and 6 p.m.

Everyone should become familiar with the following terms:

Tornado Watch — A watch means that weather conditions, favorable to producing tornadoes, exist. It's issued by the National Weather Service over local radio or television stations.

Once a watch is issued, stay tuned to the station for further information.

Tornado Warning — This warning means that a tornado has been sighted. It is relayed by a three-to-five minute steady tone on base or local community sirens. When the warning is heard, take cover. Remember, the average tornado watch may last about five hours, but once a valid tornado warning is issued, only three to thirty minutes may remain before potential disaster.

If you are outdoors, move away from the tornado's path at right angles. If there is no time, move to the nearest depression such as a ditch or ravine.

If at work, go to an interior hallway on the lowest floor or to a designated shelter area. Stay indoors if in a school and avoid gymnasium or auditorium areas.

In all cases, stay away from windows. If glass is shattered, it can fly at a high rate of speed and kill.

The next time television or radio programs are interrupted by a tornado watch or warning, listen and take appropriate action. Lives could be at stake!

Credit: Divots 6/84

Battling Sand Clumps

Others on Sand Topdressing Programs may have also experienced sand sticking, caking and clumping on mower rollers and tires, especially in the morning dew after a heavy sand application. Even after mowing a moderately dry green, scattered sand clumps still persist and require a "whipping".

Usually, following the Aerification/Topdressing Process, an insecticide is applied as the cutworms come out of the woodwork and chew around the core holes. Being jammed for time because of a busy schedule, an insecticide-wetting agent mix was applied almost immediately after final dragging on some of the greens.

Because of the busy outing schedule, late morning or afternoon mowing was out. So, armed with whipping poles, we went out in the morning expecting a "Battle with the Sand Globbs".

After a few passes, I was baffled. The sand didn't collect on the rollers or tires! The sand seemed to be coated with the wetting agent and didn't clump up. I was truly impressed and will try this process again.

Submitted by: Joe Purpur, Golf Course Supt.
Bartlett Hills Golf Club