

“Be Prepared”

by Mike Bavier, Inverness Golf Club

Are you ready in case of an emergency at your club? Many of you have told me you have plans for many different types of accidents.

Just the other day, one of my employees fell while getting out of the truck (just an accident), and then not more than a few hours later paint stripper spilled on one of the guy's arms. For both of these accidents, we were ready to react.

Many times common sense will cover the situation. But you should have at your fingertips information on all your employees. They may have this information at the clubhouse, but **you** need this information, too. You need to know the employee's home phone number, spouse or relatives numbers can be important. Do they have allergies that you should be aware of in case of some special treatment, and the person's personal doctor's name could be very helpful. This type of information is important and can save valuable minutes that could very well count.

Now is the time for you to update your records. Take the time and review your system and do something about it. Go over this plan with your key personnel. Make sure they have access to this information. A back up plan can be helpful, too.

Many of us are fortunate to have many very conscientious workers that are careful in their work habits.

So there is no need looking for problems. Just be prepared!!!

Storm Warning Systems

by Jeffrey A. Nack, Dir. of Golf Services
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It hasn't been that long ago that the tornado blew through the area near Plainfield and left a trail of destruction in its wake. I'm sure that many of us have some form of storm procedure that we automatically follow when something like this comes up. The ranges of readiness, all the way from a bull horn type of warning to literally sending someone around on a golf cart to warn your users and staff of the impending storm and its potential consequences.

When I arrived in our clubhouse shortly after the recent tornado I found a room full of three high school golf teams and assorted other patrons. The thought of seeking shelter in the basement of the building must have not crossed the minds of over fifty individuals. This stated to me clearly that we needed to get a better system that would command more attention than a violent thunderstorm and a formal procedure that we could implement in the event of threatening weather. Hind sight is usually 20/20, after all the center of this most recent storm passed less than ten miles away.

Prior to this, I had checked into getting a giant horn and a blaster to power the belling device and came up with an uncomfortable price tag of 3000 dollars. We bought a new putting green mower instead, after all we can demonstrate results with it. This recent brush with mother nature made me start to think of some alternative that would yield the same result with different financial implications.

Enough rhetoric ... we bought a cop car siren/whelp/phaser unit for about 150 bucks and one of the horns that they put on the top of their light bars for another 90 dollars, a motor cycle battery for another 9 bucks. This was packaged in a plastic fishing tackle box so as not to leak any undesirable goo on the pro-shop floor and the wire was strung across the roof to the horn. Presto-changeo, we've got ourselves a new belling device that cost what the 3000 bucks would earn in interest (if the bank would just creep the rate up a bit) in several months.

As an addition to that, we bought a "plectron receiver". This dandy little device sits on the shelf like a little transistor radio and is the receiver for the National Weather Service/Civil Defense. (Warnings like "Incoming scuds, we hope to never hear). When activated it emits a bleep and is an ear to the Civil Defense. This little hummer cost about \$240 and is what I hope we can rely on to have the pro-shop staff use as a trigger, inducing them to broadcast over the P.A. When they get done blasting with the wail/phaser/siren they can announce threatening weather, Kennedy has been shot, or the war is over. Hopefully, just threatening weather.

I know what you're thinking, what if the battery goes dead? Well, plans call for a battery charger to be included in the fishing tackle box, and then that gets plugged into a timer that turns it on and off.

I've got two systems for about 1200 bucks. At a little over 600 dollars a copy it sounds super cheap compared to the obligation of warning patrons of impending danger.

LIGHTNING — THUNDERSTORM SAFETY RULES FOR GOLF COURSES

WHEN A THUNDERSTORM IS APPROACHING

- DON'T play the next shot: Get off the course IMMEDIATELY.
- DON'T seek shelter under an isolated, unprotected area.
- DON'T hold on to metal shafted clubs.
- DON'T use an umbrella with a metal shaft.
- DON'T be naive and play the odds and think you will never be affected by lightning on a golf course.

DO get off the course AT ONCE.

- DO seek refuge in a large building or a rain shelter or other small building equipped with approved lightning protection or under a tree equipped with a certified lightning protection system.
- DO get off high terrain - you are safer in a ditch, gully or depressed area or lying flat on the ground.

REMEMBER:

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE HIT BY A DIRECT STROKE OF LIGHTNING TO BE SHOCKED, INJURED OR KILLED. THERE IS A POSITIVE CHARGE OF ELECTRICITY IN THE GROUND EQUAL TO THE NEGATIVE CHARGE IN THE THUNDERHEAD AND LIGHTNING CAN ENTER YOUR BODY FROM THE GROUND UP CAUSING SHOCK, INJURY OR DEATH ESPECIALLY WHEN WEARING METAL SPIKES OR HOLDING A METAL SHAFTED CLUB.

—Courtesy of

Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents