

In the case of suspected intoxication, do not take a chance on an alcoholic condition. Handle the employee with tact. Don't accuse the employee of being drunk. Your objective should be to get the employee out of the work environment with the least amount of disturbance.

In the case of emotional disturbance, do not try to play the role of psychiatrist, psychologist or family counselor. Avoid advising the employee on how to handle the problem. Do listen if the employee wants to talk about the problem. Many emotionally disturbed persons calm down once they have talked about their problems to a willing listener. Limit your advice to persuading such persons to consult their physician. The latter knows where to take it from there.

In the case of acute illness, don't take a chance on the following symptoms: abdominal and chest pains, unaccountable vomiting, violent trembling, disabling weakness, acute head pains, extreme nervous agitation, visual disturbances, unconscious states, breathing difficulty, loss of muscular control, repetitive attacks of dizziness or signs of internal bleeding. Such symptoms call for professional medical attention.

By handling these sorts of cases effectively and tactfully, you can, in addition to preventing potential accidents, develop a sincere feeling of respect and willingness to cooperate among your employees.

—Bill England

Divots, Miami Valley Golf Course Supts. Assn.

Wetting Agents Help in Water Short Year

by Demie M. Powell

The water shortage is here again! (As if you need to be told.) What can be done now to minimize turf losses where you cannot irrigate or must significantly reduce your water consumption? Not a whole lot — except to pray for rain and use wetting agents.

Wetting agents don't make water, but they do make the most out of what water is there. Wetting agents can maximize reduced water resources several ways. First, they improve infiltration so less water runs off or sits on the surface and evaporates.

Second, wetting agents help water wet the soil profile more uniformly, preventing localized dry spots. This reduces stress and keeps these areas from going dormant. It also reduces hand watering which uses up water that is probably needed elsewhere.

Third, wetting agents allow a greater percentage of the soil moisture to be available to the roots of your turf. In other words, you can go longer between waterings which will help reduce your total water consumption.

All of this means you can get by with less water and less turf loss. That will be good for you, your course and your club. It will also be good for the whole turf industry as you show your state that you are doing everything in your power to conserve water by using it wisely.

Wetting agents are not "cure-alls" or "miracle products" — they do not create water. But they do stretch your water supplies so you and your course can survive restricted water use and drought.

Lightning A Flash in the Sky

If we lived during the time of the Ancient Romans, we would believe that thunder and lightning were the weapons of the god Jupiter. Ancient Romans thought that such powerful and deadly weapons could belong only to the greatest of gods. Thunder and lightning was one of the great mysteries of nature.

Now the mystery is solved. We know, through scientific study, that lightning is really a flow of electricity, formed high above the earth. One thing that has not changed over the years is it can make us quake in our boots and raise our heart rate with the anxiety of seeing a bolt of lightning and waiting to hear the crack of thunder. Before you can say, "YIPES!", your pet dog has run under the bed or found some place to hide. All creatures great and small have an instinctive respect for lightning.

Do you know how lightning produces thunder? As lightning travels, it heats the air in its path. The sudden heating causes the air to expand violently. The cool air farther away is pressed into a smaller space. This process starts a great air wave that results in THUNDER.

Before you hear the thunder, flashes of lightning take place between a positively charged area and a negatively charged area. These may be different parts of the same cloud, different clouds, or a cloud and the earth.

A spark between a cloud and the earth may measure as much as eight miles in length. It may travel at a rate of 100,000,000 feet a second. Lightning that reaches between oppositely charged clouds may have a length of 20 miles. Photographs of lightning obtained by radar indicate that some cloud-to-cloud lightning strikes may measure 100 miles in length.

Lightning between clouds does not cause any damage on earth, because the electrical energy is dispersed in the air. But lightning between a cloud and the earth often causes loss of life and property. A bolt of lightning can kill a person or start a forest fire. Scientists have found that one stroke of lightning usually measures more than 15,000,000 volts.

There Are Different Kinds of Lightning

All lightning strikes are basically about the same. But they appear to have different forms, depending on the position of the observer.

FORKED, ZIGZAG, OR CHAIN lightning is a chain of brilliant light that appears to zigzag. It actually follows a winding path, like a river. The single streak of lightning often breaks into several branches or forks.

SHEET lightning has no particular form. It is usually a bright flash that spreads all over the horizon and lights up the sky. Sheet lightning is really light from a flash or chain lightning that takes place beyond the horizon.

HEAT lightning, often seen on summer evenings, is the same as sheet lightning, but the flashes are fainter. Thunder usually does not accompany them. The lightning occurs too far away for thunder to be heard.

BALL lightning seems to consist of balls of fire, as small as walnuts or as large as balloons, that last about three to five seconds. They fall swiftly from the clouds until they strike the ground and explode. Sometimes they roll slowly along the ground and do not explode until they hit an obstacle. Ball lightning is the least understood of all forms of lightning. Many

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FLASH IN THE SKY (continued from page 23)

meteorologists even doubt that it exists. They think it may be an optical illusion. However, so many reliable witnesses have seen it, that scientists have begun to study it. They have produced ball lightning in the laboratory. This kind of lightning does not appear to be dangerous.

According to the United States Department of Commerce: 1800 thunderstorms are in progress over the earth's surface at any given moment, and the lightning strikes the earth 100 times per second. The average death toll from lightning is greater than from tornadoes or hurricanes.

Normal household current usually contains 200 amps whereas lightning can contain up to 200,000 amps. Don't be misled by amperage. A person can be killed with as little 3 amps of electricity.

Lightning also poses another threat. Heat is a problem with lightning strikes. A person struck by lightning can be burned with temperatures as high as 15,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Lightning presents three initial problems:

1. High Voltage
2. High Amperage
3. High Temperatures

These three things can inflict serious damage to a person.

Afternoon storms make the golfer and golf course employees a likely target. No one likes to think about getting struck by lightning. Perchance you find yourself in the midst of a surprise storm, keep these precautions in mind:

Keep away from trees. Lightning generally strikes tall objects such as trees, posts, poles, etc. By being close to these objects you may become a target and get shocked.

Stay away from water. Water is an excellent conductor of electricity and you may get shocked from the lightning strike or standing on wet grass. Do not seek shelter near a lake, river, etc.

Stay away from metal huts. Lightning, as with all electricity, is conducted through wet surfaces and metal.

Seek shelter. Get inside a building or inside a closed car. Do not seek shelter in a small partially enclosed building. Many outdoor "huts" still get wet floors.

Open areas. If you are in an open area such as a fairway, crouch down or lay on the ground.

If skin tingles, duck. Static electricity will build just before a lightning strike. If your skin starts tingling, this is an indication of an impending strike. Get onto the ground quickly.

Weather can change from beautiful sunshine to a torrential downpour in a matter of a few hours, use common sense and get back to the club house or safe shelter before lightning strikes.

How to Treat a Victim Struck by Lightning

Above all do not panic. Nothing gets done in a panic.

1. Before leaving the safety of a building, call Rescue. If possible, have someone watch for Rescue to guide them to your exact location. Time is of the essence. Resuscitation needs to be started as soon as possible after the lightning strike.

2. Check the victim: If cardiac arrest, perform CPR. Keep working on the victim until Rescue arrives.

- There may be burns on the skin or burns inside the body. As electrical current passes through the body, it burns the tissue. From the entrance into the body until it leaves the body through the exit wound, the current damages the tissue in its path.

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• Victims are usually thrown into the air, landing several feet from their original position. This landing may have caused broken bones and more importantly, it may cause a broken neck. A broken neck, if not handled properly, can cause permanent paralysis.

• Other people near the victim can be injured, too. Golfers play in groups from two to four. Anyone in the group standing too close or standing on damp ground can receive a serious shock. You may be treating more than one victim.

• Unless there is a severe threat to your life and the lives of the people around you, do not move the victim. Do NOT be tempted to put the victim into a golf cart and make a run for the clubhouse, regardless of what the people around urge you to do. Remind people around you not to panic!

Lightning is an unpredictable act of nature that makes a mighty and sometimes deadly statement of force. True respect of this force is to know the rules for safety and to follow them.

Credit — Charlotte Jones/The Florida Green