

(The Best Thing continued)

Despite his reservations, Spence predicted that roller use would proliferate in an industry that will "hit the wall someday."

"The more people that play courses will use rollers, the more courses will have them," he said.

"We may not see the effects for two to three years," said Jim Connolly. "The roller is another tool. If used properly and effectively, it can be another thing a superintendent can do to meet the needs of today's golfer."

"It's not right or wrong, it's how you use it that is right or wrong," he said.

Connolly listed the following four points of USGA concerns with respect to greens rolling: 1) rolling of greens during unfavorable weather; 2) rolling of greens following an abrasive maintenance practice; 3) rolling of greens to achieve synthetic green speeds; 4) the superintendent must be in control of when greens are rolled.

(Editor's note: I thought I would reprint the above article on the comments of the greens roller that I introduced to the Chicago area back in May of 1988).

Are You Ready For A Fire In Your Shop?

by Marty Baumann, Fresh Meadows Golf Course

When was the last time you conducted a fire safety audit of your shop? No, I don't mean you told someone to put out their cigarette when they walked in. I mean a comprehensive safety check. If a fire were to start in your shop, considering the nature of our business, the odds are high you will lose your entire facility.

A safety audit for fire hazards will do many things for you. First, by having a different person do the audit each time, you will educate an employee on the importance of safety in your shop. Second, your overall workplace will be a safer place for everyone to work in. When doing the audit, every shop will be a bit different, and some things need to be stressed over others. But if you focus on these basic items, you will go a long way toward reducing your chance of a fire ...

1) Monitor open flame or sources of ignition in your shop. Have a safe area for these kinds of activities.

2) A buildup of trash, oily rags and other waste products can cause spontaneous ignition and will add to a fire load.

3) Mechanical sparks can ignite a fire. These areas should be monitored also.

4) Portable heaters need to be used carefully; placement of a heater is very important. Spring is a good time to clean heaters and check them for proper operation for use next fall/winter.

5) Chemicals, including gasoline, need very special care, signs and personnel training. Keep in mind that if you have a fire involving chemicals, even a small one, the EPA will declare any item in your shop that receives smoke and/or water damage from the fire a toxic waste and you will not be able to salvage those items.

6) Welding/cutting torches need to have full-time, on-going training and a special area for their use.

7) Check all fire extinguishers.

Keep in mind that almost all fires can be prevented. Stick to a good audit of your shop and control all sources of flame or heat in the shop and you should be fine. Remember, the cost of fire safety per 1000 square feet will give you an excellent return on your investment and last many months.



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