



Are YOU Prepared?

There is nothing more sacred than life, and nothing more fragile than our health. How much thought have you put into keeping yourself, grounds crew and guests safe while they are present at your facility? I count my blessings each and every day that my family and I are in good health. Do you feel an obligation or responsibility for the well-being of the people who occupy your facility? You should.

The golf course ranks in the top five places most likely to occasion a heart attack. Are you prepared for this extreme situation? If you, a crew member or a guest goes down with a heart attack, here's hoping someone with the proper training reaches them in just minutes. After 10 minutes without proper attention, you have little chance of survival.

I worked for 10 years as a paid-on-call EMT/firefighter in Naperville. It was during these years that I began to appreciate safety and the tragic results of carelessness and being unprepared. Whenever I am told that I am being overly cautious or worry too much about safety, I respond with, "Great." Don't get me wrong—I am not a fanatic about preaching safety, I am just a firm believer in being prepared. And I wasn't even a Boy Scout!

A few years ago, I developed a Seven Bridges Golf Club Emergency Procedures Manual, designed specifically for our golf course. The idea behind such a document is to have a training manual for all the employees to read and understand, thereby allowing each and every employee the knowledge to implement an emergency procedure. If you currently are not operating with any kind of routine system for emergency medical services on your golf course, please consider using some of the following.

Some 250,000 lives are lost annually to cardiac arrest; many of you have experienced this at your club or facility firsthand. The golf course ranks in the top five places most likely to occasion a heart attack. Are you prepared for this extreme situation? If you, a crew member or a guest goes down with a heart attack, here's hoping someone with the proper training reaches them in just minutes. After 10 minutes without proper attention, you have little chance of survival. We have a mandatory CPR class for some of our employees every spring. This year, we have 27 people trained in life-saving procedures. We have trained these same individuals with an automated external defibrillator (AED). Early defibrillation, bystander CPR and early accurate information to your local EMS will save lives. The GCSAA, *Golf Digest* and the American Heart Association have created Links for Life. You can find out more about this by calling 800-438-0489. Not only is having an AED at your facility the right thing to do, it is also a great public relations story.

We have radio communication to all of our on-course employees (starter, rangers and beverage carts). In an emergency situation, the pro

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shop is called immediately. When we implement the 911 system, our manual will give a complete description of the proper procedure to follow. Communication is the key component every time. Whether the emergency is a golf car accident, golfer struck by a club or ball, lightning strike or any other life-threatening occurrence, you need to have quick and complete details. Every golf course has unique features to address. For example, some of our bridges do not allow access to an ambulance. Our manual tells the employee, based on the location of the individual in need of assistance, where to send the medical personnel. In some cases, we even list a house address, for access through the fence behind the home. Someone should be instructed to meet the ambulance with a prepared route and guide the medical unit to the scene without delay and minimal damage to your facility.

An emergency procedures manual should include a variety of other components. I have included all emergency as well as non-emergency telephone numbers needed to reach local police and fire departments, hospitals, animal control, etc. Floor plans of the onsite buildings depict fire extinguishers and emergency exits clearly marked. Our manual also includes instructions on fire extinguisher usage as well as basic first aid training material. We have included detailed instruction on what to do in case of a fire during business operations. Building evacuation plans are detailed; so are golf course evacuation routes in case of severe weather situations. Even though our employees are certified in administering CPR, we keep a quick reference for CPR and choking victims in the emergency procedures book.

The Good Samaritan Act will absolve all liabilities involved with giving medical attention on or off your property as long as this attention is performed with reasonable effort. In some situations, taking certain safety measures can even help your insurance premiums. We keep a copy of our manual in a red binder accessible in every department of our golf course. Also, our local fire department retains a copy. It goes a long way in forging a solid relationship with the local authorities.

I sincerely hope you all take a serious look around you at your place of work and commit to enhancing your life safety program. It could very well prove to be the best time you have ever spent creating a program. Other than the purchase of an AED, it is not very expensive to organize an emergency plan for your facility. I

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Bob Maibusch . . . (continued from page 32)

support them," says Bob. "The lower-end courses really grow the game of golf—you're not going to take your eight-year-old who's just starting to play out for a \$90 or \$100 round. This reflects GCSAA's commitment to help golf thrive in the future."

By year's end, Bob will have a decision to make: whether to run for reelection in February 2001.

"My priorities are always going to be family, employer and then GCSAA," Bob notes.

Still, "it's been fun so far," says Bob. "I'm very happy to be serving. I do feel a commitment to the profession and the game, and I do feel it's important if you have an opportunity to serve to do that. If you can give something back to the association, you should."

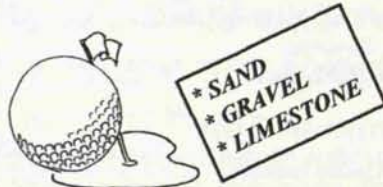
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would be very happy to share my information with anybody needing a template for creating his or her own plan. Lightning can strike twice in the same place, so be prepared. I hope everyone is having a great spring. God bless.



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