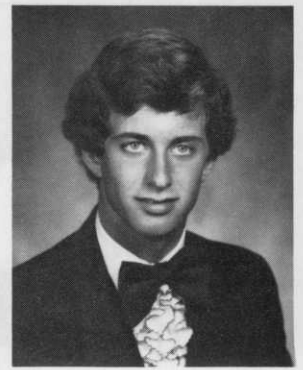


# Safety and the Superintendent

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In the event of equipment operating, safety is important in any situation. Whether it's in the rough on a hillside or on a greens surface, you must be aware of all hazards in the operation of your equipment. Equipment is designed to perform a specific function and to provide efficient, time saving methods of doing a job. It is designed with the operator in mind and built to OSHA (Occupational Safety Health Association) standards for the safety of each individual. Though progress is being made to enhance the safety of each product produced, we know we can only control accidents, and that only ignorance, carelessness, and inefficiency prevents us from working with safety in mind. As we produce bigger and more sophisticated machinery to do the work man had to do by hand, new and more extensive safety measures have to be taken.

Practicing safety precautions does not mean eliminating all activity that might be dangerous. There will always be those few that will be tempted. It's up to you, the supervisor, to acknowledge the risk involved and to take action, for it's the safety of each employee that's your concern.

The major problem is adapting persons to work operations and conditions with maximum degree of safety. Records have shown that this is not an easy task. Action has to be taken in such a manner that personnel can comprehend. Working as a supervisor you must be able to work with your people and be able to get people to work with you. It is up to you to notice unsafe conditions and unsafe acts. You must be able to correct unsafe acts in a manner which will cause neither confusion nor resentment.

Follow the procedures in accident prevention listed:

1. improve physical conditions, operations, process, so as to minimize the probability of accidents;

2. guard machinery and all moving parts;
  3. design personal practices to train, assign and supervise employees in a way that increase the expectation of safe performance;
  4. analyze accident facts with view toward initiating preventive measures;
  5. know probable or potential hazards;
  6. know actual or existing hazards;
  7. take action and provide information through posted literature and by verbal communication with employees;
  8. provide necessary safety equipment to do a job.
- All of these are significant to the superintendent in providing safe conditions for his employees.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to hire a mechanic who is qualified in the area of golf course equipment. Keeping equipment in top operating condition with all safety devices working, is his main objective. People don't realize the importance of most safety devices on machinery. The equipment is built for the safety of the individual.

A disconnected safety switch and improper repair may cause serious injury to the operator. For example, a greens mower operator dismounts his machine, while it's running, to unclog grass clippings from the reels. In the process, his fingers are severed. Due to improper repair of safety switches to cut off the machine as he dismounted, an operator lost his fingers, disabling him for life. But if all safeguards were operational, accidents would be lessened.

In conclusion, make sure equipment is used in its specified areas, be responsible, take action in providing proper safety equipment, and maintain equipment for maximum SAFETY. ■

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