

SAFETY FIRST

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This lay person would never attempt to instruct a superintendent how to train an employee. You folks are the experts. If you don't personally show an inexperienced new crew member exactly how the job is done, you probably assign an experienced crew member to shadow him and show him the ropes for a few days/weeks. No one would simply TELL a person how to cut a cup, for example, if that person had never seen one before. Give me the necessary tools and verbal instructions, and you're liable to end up with a crater smack in the middle of the fairway, possibly in the middle of an irrigation pipe. No, don't turn us greenhorns loose without a living guide to save us from ourselves, and yourself a lot of headache!

While you're hypothetically training me, please don't forget the essential safety precautions. They may save more than a headache - they might save a life.

OSHA has rules and regulations for employers, and a poster for employees. Be sure it's displayed where I can see it. I am a woman. Please don't tack it to the wall in the mens room.

Advise me of where first aid supplies are kept, and explain in detail which chemicals I may become exposed to that must be flushed off immediately. Don't forget to show me where this is done, and who to

report work-related injuries to.

I've never worn a respirator, never even seen one up close. Please show me exactly how to use one, and explain in what situations, and who is responsible for cleaning it after the job is finished. If a protective rubber suit must be worn, does it need more than a quick hosing off when I'm done with it?

While we're talking about equipment, let me know which jobs will require wearing safety goggles, and where I can find them. My eyesight is precious to me! Many courses require employees to wear steel-toe boots. A good friend of mine lost his toe several years ago, flymowing a slippery bank. You can bet I'll wear them! But do you supply them, or must I purchase a pair myself? Even the most safety-conscious, careful employee can have an accident. A pair of long pants provided that thin edge of protection when a chain saw tried to eat my husband's leg. He wasn't hurt, but you won't hear me complaining about the "No Shorts" rule at your course.

Even if instructions seem silly, obvious, and self-explanatory, please come straight out and tell me not to poke around under a mower before disengaging the blades or shutting down the motor.

Am I responsible for washing down my machine after every use? Will you show me just how you want this done?

Does a mechanic perform daily routine maintenance tasks, or do I check the oil in my machine before using it? Must I refuel my machine at the end of the day so it's ready to go in the morning, or do you prefer it to be nearly empty to reduce fire hazards? Must I log my fuel usage for record-keeping purposes? When my machine is oiled, fueled, and ready to go, where do I dispose of the oily or gas-soaked rags?

Please show me exactly where I may or may not drive machinery on the course. If a load is too heavy to pull across a recently planted fairway, please say so in advance. I'd rather face a charging bull than an outraged superintendent.

Instruct me in every detail of operating procedure of all equipment I'll be using, from cleaning ball-washers to flymowers and tractors. I'm a quick learner, but there's a lot to learn. Please be patient - the only "dumb" question is the one that isn't asked, especially regarding safe operation of expensive machinery. I want to do a good job for you! To use another worn cliché, Rome wasn't built in a day. The time you invest in instructing me now will be returned to you ten-fold in decreased delays, mistakes, downtime and injuries.

Oh, and thanks for that pat on the back. It's great to be part of this team! ■



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