

dangerous to financial health

under the Environmental Protection Agency's 40 CFR rules governing waste products.

"Pesticides, fertilizers, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides — you have all of these and I suspect you recognize these as things you should worry about," Malotke said. "But you also have to be concerned about your maintenance chemicals — the degreasers, the gas, the oil, the blade-honing compounds ... as well as underground tanks.

"You use a lot of different types of chemicals to maintain your equipment. Improperly managed, those can cause you significant

and costly problems."

Malotke cited a local cemetery her company inspected where Tencon found 750 chemicals on the premises. In another inspection some 200 chemicals were in use at a lawn-care company.

Malotke said each handler of chemicals has certain responsibilities under the OSHA law.

The chemical manufacturer or supplier determines which products are hazardous, then must provide for safe packaging and shipping, clearly label the chemicals and provide an accurate material safety data sheet (MSDS), she

said.

The superintendent, as part of his hazardous communication and safety program, must make a list of all chemicals and hazardous materials and where they are ("If you wouldn't put it in your mouth, it goes on the list."); label all containers, including safety cans and tanks; train his employees; create a safe work environment with appropriate safety equipment; and provide MSDS to OSHA, DEP and DOT.

And, she warned: "This is not a do-it-once-and-forget-it job. It's your problem to stay on top of it,

always."

In case of a chemical spill, should you contact the government?

"Yes, the law says you have to call. If you don't, some disgruntled employee may call, and then you're really in trouble," Malotke said.

She said if a superintendent acts responsibly — first, implementing and keeping a hazardous materials program; and, second, contacting authorities when a problem arises — those enforcing the laws usually respond much more leniently in imposing penalties.

"It's the only way to go," she said.

Advice from a pro

Tencon, Inc. President Mary Malotke's talk at the Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show included some sage advice to golf course superintendents and others in the lawn-care industry.

- "Many in your business buy concentrated chemicals and mix them up," she said. Superintendents should ask producers for labels, put those labels on containers when the chemical is out and in use.

- "Gasoline is a very common and dangerous chemical if you don't use it safely," she said. She said one death a year in Ohio is caused by a gasoline explosion. Gas fumes stay near the ground and can ignite easily, she said.

- Irritants and corrosives must be handled with care, she said, recommending protective clothing. Battery acid can be a problem, especially since batteries can no longer legally be thrown out without precautions. Malotke said 20 batteries explode — from wrongly jump-starting, overloading, or other reasons — every winter in Ohio.

- "Know the symptoms of the chemicals you use," she said.

- Most forms of toxics are invisible.

- Chemicals can't always be detected by sight or smell.

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Ex-astronaut Irwin to speak at GCSAA show

Apollo 15 astronaut Col. James B. Irwin, one of 12 people to walk on the moon, will speak at the Prayer Breakfast during the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 61st International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, Fla.

Irwin, who participated in the fourth manned lunar landing, will speak from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, at the Orlando Peabody Hotel. The breakfast is open to all faiths.

John Ebel of Barrington Hills (Ill.) Country Club, who heads the breakfast organizers, said, "There should be a lot of families with kids in Orlando," Ebel said. "This will be a great experience for the parents and children."

After retiring from the Air Force in 1972, Irwin founded High Flight Foundation to "inspire and motivate individuals to attain their 'highest flight' in life."

He has written three motivational books, spoken in 55 countries, including the Soviet Union.

About his lunar landing, Irwin said: "The hours that I spent on the moon were the most thrilling of my life. Not because I was there but because I could feel the presence of God. There were times when I was faced with new challenges, and help from God was immediate."