

**COMPREHENSIVE IS THE WORD FOR SAFETY, HEALTH PROGRAMS**

Safety and health programs should be comprehensive, encompassing an employee emergency plan, fire, hearing and respiratory protection, accident signs and tags, medical services and first aid, portable fire extinguishers, automatic sprinkler systems, fixed extinguishing systems, fire detection systems, servicing of multi-piece and fixed-piece rim wheels, powered industrial trucks (forklifts), oxygen fuel and gas welding and cutting, arc welding and cutting, resistance welding, electrical safety regulations, the HazCom standard, wood-working tools, rollover protection for tractors, excavation general construction requirements, and guarding of field equipment.

## Decibel monitoring can be crucial, especially for mower operators

Hearing conservation is a major issue at golf courses, the prime culprits being triplex mowers, weed-eaters and grinding wheels.

"Typically, the worry is with the guys who are mowing all day long. The newer mowers are real nice, and may be a nonfactor," said Ron Smith, president of Sports Club Management, Inc. in Braintree, Mass. "Some of the older ones are bad, as are most of the triplex mowers. Their noise levels are anywhere from 92 to 97 decibels."

"Once you get to 90 decibels there is a sliding scale of how much you can be exposed without hearing protection," he added. "If you have to speak over normal conversational tones to be heard, you are around 90 decibels. You are allowed to be

at an average of 90 decibels for the whole day. At 95 decibels (that's like a 10-percent increase), for only four hours. At 100 decibels you can only be exposed for two hours."

Florida Golf Course Superintendent Association President Scott Bell said: "We supply all our employees with two types of hearing protection and require that they use at least one of the two."

Smith suggested superintendents run noise tests using noise meters (available for \$60-\$70) and audio-metric badges that absorb noise.

Also, crews should undergo hearing tests once a year. "It's a chronic disability that erodes your hearing capacity over time," he said. Providing protection is a minor cost that can provide big savings later.

**SEPARATE PESTICIDES FROM OTHER BUILDINGS**

More superintendents are making one improvement: storing the pesticides in a separate structure. The idea, said superintendent Ray Davies, "is, making sure if we did have a fire, the fire department would put it out."

Indeed, Davies found that the best way to get good advice is to ask the regulators to inspect your facility. Firefighters recommended Davies move the petroleum products and pesticides from the shop. It cost about \$4,000."

## OSHA's Top 25 general industry violations

Oct. 1, 1993 through Sept. 30, 1994

No.	Subject	Total Violations	Initial Penalty
1.	Written hazard communication program	5,826	\$3,170,303
2.	OSHA 200 log & summary	3,941	1,586,740
3.	Hazard communication-Employee info	3,834	2,427,512
4.	Hazard communication-Labeling	3,367	1,194,210
5.	Posting job safety & health protection poster	2,895	656,205
6.	Access to employee exposure & med. records	2,166	136,205
7.	Lockout/tagout-Energy control program	1,960	1,926,388
8.	Lockout/tagout-Energy control procedures	1,951	2,953,552
9.	Machine guarding-Types of guarding	1,886	2,969,327
10.	Abrasive wheel machinery-Exposure adjustment/safety guards	1,735	878,290
11.	Hazard communication-MSDS	1,626	646,800
12.	First aid-Eye wash/emergency shower facilities	1,583	1,410,260
13.	Lockout/tagout-Training & communication	1,485	8,780,450
14.	Mechanical power transmission-Pulley guarding	1,376	1,123,733
15.	Wiring methods-Flexible cords & cables	1,228	610,493
16.	Machine guarding-Point of operation guarding	1,187	1,973,635
17.	Abrasive wheel machinery-Work rests	1,156	715,655
18.	Guarding floor openings, platforms & runways	1,113	1,520,348
19.	Electric-Guarding of live parts	1,059	1,093,602
20.	Electric-Wiring/conductor protection	1,020	627,905
21.	Personal protective equipment-Provide, use & maintain	1,008	1,444,160
22.	Hazard communication-MSDS maintenance & availability	1,003	488,650
23.	Electric-Wiring methods/identification	994	469,265
24.	Blood-borne pathogens-Exposure control plan	987	795,375
25.	OSH Act-General duty clause (employer must provide a safe workplace for all employees)	981	3,583,852

Source: OSHA Computerized Information System

\* — The list of OSHA 1910 general industry citations also contained ten 1926 construction industry violations not included on this chart.

## Turn safety into savings

Continued from previous page

iron, but as people," Davies urged his colleagues. "Superintendents will spend hours deciding on a mower, yet will hire people in 10 minutes. The machine might cost \$15,000 or \$20,000 and will last 15 years. You pay the person \$20,000 or \$25,000 a year. That's 10-to-one the person over the machine.

"It's important to take a lot of care in choosing and training people."

When contractors come on Davies' course, they are given a list of various hazards — from bee stings to gopher holes, and foxes and squirrels carrying diseases.

Training is also important, Davies said, suggesting a lot of

videotapes and inviting outside experts to speak.

"Unless you're documenting [training], it does not exist," McKee said. "Using a camera is the best way to document. In addition to having employees sign off that they were given training and had the opportunity to ask questions, take pictures — pictures of people wearing spray protection, wearing safety belts, whatever it is that that person was trained in."

In some areas, you never know when extra training may pay off. One week after his club had 20 employees, including six on the maintenance staff, undergo CPR and first aid training, one of the crew performed the Heimlich Method on a choking friend. "He would have died," Davies said. "Can you put a value on that?"

The class is \$25 per person and is renewed every two years.

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