MAINTENANCE

DuPont CC sets supers' safety standards

By MARK LESLIE

ANDENBERG, Pa. - Ergonomics, safety and environmental friendliness. In the world of Earl Shafer, they add up to improved efficiency, a healthier crew and overall efficiency

"People are first and equipment is second, and you're only as good as your equipment can produce," said Shafer, head superintendent at the 54-hole DuPont Country Club here.

Shafer's maintenance complex, built five years ago, draws raves from his colleagues, one of whom said: "DuPont Country Club has set the world's safety standards. They have thought of everything.'

And one of Shafer's favorite accomplishments is the repair shop, where the crew deals with more than 300 pieces of equipment - from weed eaters to dump trucks.

"We wanted to get off of creepers and concrete floor," Shafer said, "and we didn't have enough room to do anything.'

Going the extra mile to make chores safer, easier and less time-consuming, DuPont CC's repair shop certainly has the room now. It includes:

• Two 5-by-7-foot lift tables, so that a triplex mower or other equipment can be driven onto one and raised to a working height.

"Ergonomically, it's a big advantage to mechanics," Shafer said.

A big-truck lift.

• Oil-separating drains. If oil spills in the shop, or equipment is washed off with solvent, the drain separates oil from water and puts the oil in a reservoir so it can be handled like waste oil.

 Outlets in the floor all over the shop, with hoses that can be put into equipment exhausts to handle carbon monoxide

• Two overhead traveling crane lifts - one for heavy jobs and one for lighter. "When we have to take tractors apart, or take a motor out of a truck or tractor, we can do that. We have one large one and a second one that goes into the grinding room," Shafer said. "The smaller lift allows you to bring in a set of 30-inch mowing drag units, lift them up onto a repair table and disassemble them."

• A separate room for the grinding operation for cleanliness and with an air-handling exhaust system to remove the grinding particulate. There are four grinders in that room: automatic-bed knife, conventional hook-type reel, spin and rotary-blade grinders.

Keeping the grinding room out of the main repair area, Shafer said, "also accomplishes the safety and health and ergonomic features we wanted. The crane travels to each of these machines, so you don't have to hoist mowers in and out of the machines."

• A parts washer in the grinding room.

· A parts storage area with a flammable cabinet for aerosols and where spare parts are kept "for things that need fairly repetitive replacement, or that may be difficult to get or that would keep a piece down for a long time." A mezzanine level to the parts room holds irrigation supplies, tires, etc.

• An overhead lube and oil system as

well as air stations for air tools.

• A 20-by-12-foot welding area (not separate room), with a welding hood to exhaust it, welding table with fire brick and two welders as well as the ability to brace gas welding.

• Such other necessities as a press for pressing bearings and seals, etc.; tire repair area; workbench; tool boxes.

"It's a drive-through building, so you don't have to move things to get in and out. And it has two 14-foot-high double overhead doors," Shafer said.

The maintenance coordinator's office adjacent to the repair area contains a second desk for the mechanic who reports to him as well as controls and

data recording for the fuel system and underground storage tanks (USTs). The fuel system records diesel and gasoline used by each piece of

equipment, keeping an eye on usage and helping with monthly reconciliation. The UST monitor keeps track of current inventory as well as watching out for leaks.

Five years after building the shop, does Shafer know of anything he would have added or changed if he could do it again? "Can't think of a thing," he said. Enough said.



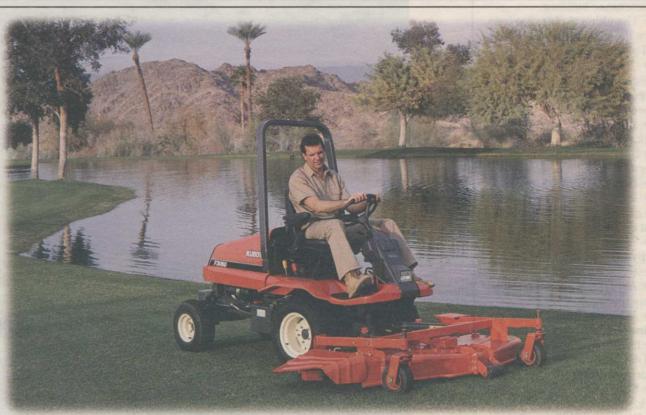
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