

PPE display a significant reminder to employees

By TERRY BUCHEN

LAS VEGAS—The 15 golf courses that comprise the Tournament Players Clubs (TPC) nationwide save thousands of dollars each year on insurance premiums by having employee-safety programs that are a model for other golf course maintenance operations to follow. The new TPC at The Canyons is a public-access course that has a state-of-the-art turf-care maintenance facility. Kim Wood is the golf course superintendent and Collier Miller is the southwestern director of the TPC golf course maintenance operations, and they are proud of their safety program.

"We have a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Display mounted on a bulletin board/pegboard-type material, covered with cloth, which shows examples of everyday safety equipment, displayed in the employee lunchroom," said Miller. "The PPE display describes which

piece of maintenance equipment the safety equipment must be used for which acts as a very efficient 'reminder' to employees to wear and use these important pieces of safety protective equipment. The labels are made on a computer, then pasted onto the cloth," Miller added.

"Employee safety meetings are held once a week, all year long," he said. "We have 26 specific safety topics we discuss each year, such as how to protect yourself for safety; MSDS sheets; eye wash station; safety showers; different task safety agendas; employee training review. They are held prior to going to work out on the course. We have open discussion-type safety meetings that alternate with the 26 specific topics, such as what happened during the previous week; what near-miss accidents happened; potential



hazardous conditions are addressed; Haz Com issues and concerns; back-lifting of any object. We hold them briefly in the mornings prior to going out on the course for work."

For two straight weeks each year, during the slow season, a 45- to 60-minute "Safety Right-to-Know" safety meeting is held for one day each week, discussing Right-to-Know; Haz Com and other issues, and each employee signs off that they have attended and understand the safety training. These two meetings, because of their length, are held in the afternoon.

"Our insurance inspectors and underwriters call the TPC safety programs a model in the industry," Miller said, "causing substantial savings to the TPC operational budget and the safety program is well accepted and much appreciated by our employees."



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shows an employee by example at TPC at The Canyons in Las Vegas.

Penn's Hamilton named Innovator of the Year

NEWPORT, R.I. — George Hamilton has earned the Innovator of the Year Award for developing PennMulch, a revolutionary seed establishment mulch now being used in the turfgrass industry. PennMulch, manufactured from recycled materials, replaces straw or hydromulch, includes a starter fertilizer, is easy to apply, and improves seed establishment over traditional methods.

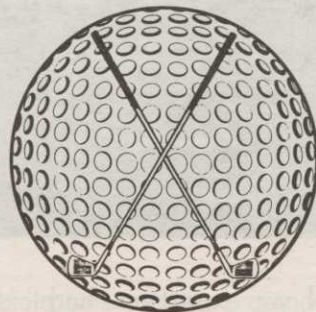
Hamilton received the award during the 51st annual meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society, held here

in January. The award is sponsored by AgrEvo, a company of Hoechst-Noram. This award is to encourage the reporting and recognition in weed science including extension, teaching and research.

Hamilton has been involved in Penn State's turf program since 1982. He was hired as a research technologist after completing a bachelor's degree in agronomy at Penn State. He previously won the Innovator Award in 1994 for developing a granular fertilizer/herbicide calibration unit called the PennPro Collector.

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