

Above-ground tank alternative wins converts

By TERRY BUCHEN

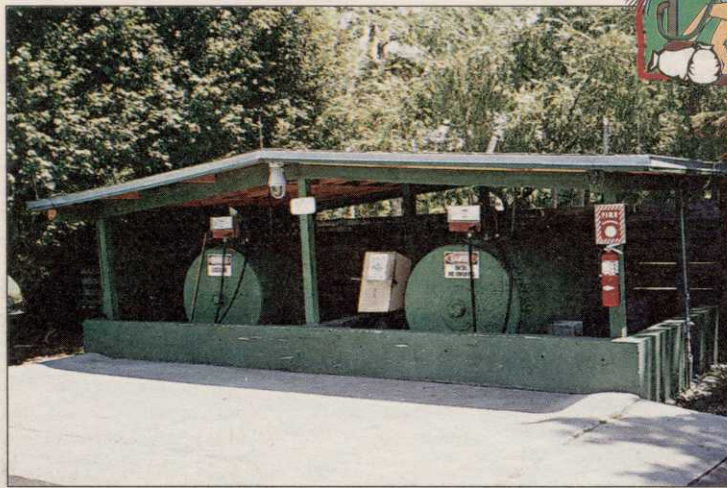
Many golf course superintendents have recently relocated their fuel-storage tanks above ground, on existing courses, and are doing the same at new golf course maintenance facilities.

Federal and state regulations make it extremely tough to put underground storage tanks at a new golf course venue; doubly tough at an established course.

With all of the new leak-detection systems now required, plus other bureaucratic rules in place, it's no wonder that above-ground seems best.

Regulations for above-ground fuel storage include:

- Spill containment at least equal to the total fuel capacity of all tanks, usually more; a
- An emergency fuel shutoff switch on electric pump models;
- Portable fire extinguishers with a red/white safety sign above them;
- Explosion-proof lighting fixtures in close proximity to the tanks;
- At least one lightning rod



Above-ground tanks offer security in a number of ways.

on tanks with roofs;

- "No Smoking" safety signs conspicuously placed throughout;
- Fuel tanks with separate vertical air pipes and vent caps;
- Accurate fuel usage meters, measured in tenths of a gallon;
- Each tank marked with its respective fuel type along with the word "Danger";
- The ability to secure the tanks with padlocks and electricity shut-off switches or

circuit breakers.

Other items for consideration include:

- making the fuel tanks accessible for fuel delivery trucks; accessible for golf course maintenance staff members;
- fuel usage record keeping procedures; having the tanks painted to help prevent them from "sweating"; and
- painting the rest of the exterior for aesthetic appeal; and setting up a safety emergency procedure for all employees.



HazCom regs aren't difficult

By TERRY BUCHEN

To comply with a golf course's liability insurance carrier, state or private Worker's Compensation insurance provider and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), superintendents must conspicuously place a right-to-know station for their employees to use at any time.

The right-to-know station, usually by the time clock, contains emergency phone numbers for police, fire department, hospitals, doctors, sheriffs, etc. for employees' use during an emergency.

Also included, in a notebook, are Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) which list all the safety information an employee would ever need for the most toxic pesticide or such simple chemicals as white-out for repairing typewriting errors. Each purveyor automatically furnishes these sheets to supers upon request, or many times after a purchase is made.

Superintendents must also arrange to train each employee in the right-to-know laws and have each sign a form verifying that they have been trained in the

proper use of all chemicals in the workplace. These sheets are usually placed in the Hazardous Communications (HazCom) or MSDS notebooks, with the originals kept in the superintendent's files.

Usually next to the right-to-know station is a HazCom notebook, with a specific listing for all safety-related items in the maintenance area, such as lock-out, tag-out locations to shut off the air compressor.

If a Worker's Comp or OSHA inspector comes to the maintenance building area, they will automatically ask to see the right-to-know and HazCom programs.

These "safety areas" spell out state and federal employee work laws, first-aid kits, oxygen bottles, eye-wash station, pesticide storage area, ear plugs, fire extinguisher, Worker's Compensation certificate, first-aid instruction poster, etc. for the benefit of all employees and visitors.

The course's liability insurer should send a safety inspector to visit once or twice a year to provide whatever safety information may be needed without fear of being written up or fined.

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