Lockouts, tagouts crucial in shop

By TERRY BUCHEN

To avoid accidents from unexpected startups or release of stored energy, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is requiring that locks and/or tags be used before servicing or maintaining golf course equipment and machinery.

A "lockout" is a device that renders a switch, valve, raised load, coiled spring or any energy source inoperative. It may be a padlock, blanking plate, restraining bar, chain and padlock, ignition key or any device which prevents a machine from being energized or releasing stored energy.

A "tagout" (or locking tag) shows who locked out the mechanism, the time, date, and telephone number or radio page. It must be fastened to the locking mechanism so it doesn't fall off accidentally, and only be applied and removed by the same authorized individual. A tagout warns others that a particular switch, valve or energy source is "locked out" in the off or safe position and should not be operated. Outside servicing personnel and contractors should be informed of the course's lockout/tagout procedures.

Lockout/tagout programs include removing ignition keys from equipment and tagging the steering wheel that is inoperable; locking out the main electrical disconnect for the shop air compressor and tagging it; using a safety donut device that can be used to lock out round valve handles of varying diameters, etc.

The 11 elements of a lockout program are:

- Determine what energy sources will be locked out.
- Determine if locks can be applied.
- Determine the sequence to follow.
- Determine who will apply locks and tags.
- Coordinate multiple maintenance personnel use of their own locker tag.
- Be sure all stored energy is safely released and blocked.
- Follow course procedures for performing maintenance and service.
- Before removing locks and tags and returning machinery to operation, be sure that: all safety guards are back in place; work is complete and tools stored away; workers are positioned safely for start-up; and controls are positioned correctly for start-up and the machine is operation-ready.
- Only the person who applied the lock or tag removes it.
- Follow the predetermined golf course maintenance sequence of unlocking and untagging the lockout points to return the machine to service.
- Continue employee training and education.

Lock tips include: one lock, one key; identify locks; use multiple lockout devices if needed; never give your assigned key or lock to someone else; always use a tagout with your lock; and if a lock cannot be used, contact your immediate supervisor.

A tip to remember: Locks and tags don't de-energize machines or equipment; people do.

ISSUES OF SAFETY

Gasoline can spell d-a-n-g-e-r

By BILL SIURU

Transporting and handling gasoline comes with the territory in golf course maintenance. Unfortunately, many forget the hazards involved and use some pretty unsafe practices. This includes carrying and filling "unapproved" containers in pickup truck beds or utility vehicles.

Plastic bedliners protect pickup beds from scratches, dents and even punctures. They can also present a fire hazard when gasoline cans and tanks are carried or filled in pickups fitted with bedliners. The problem is the static charge which can accumulate as the contain-

Continued on next page