

## 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

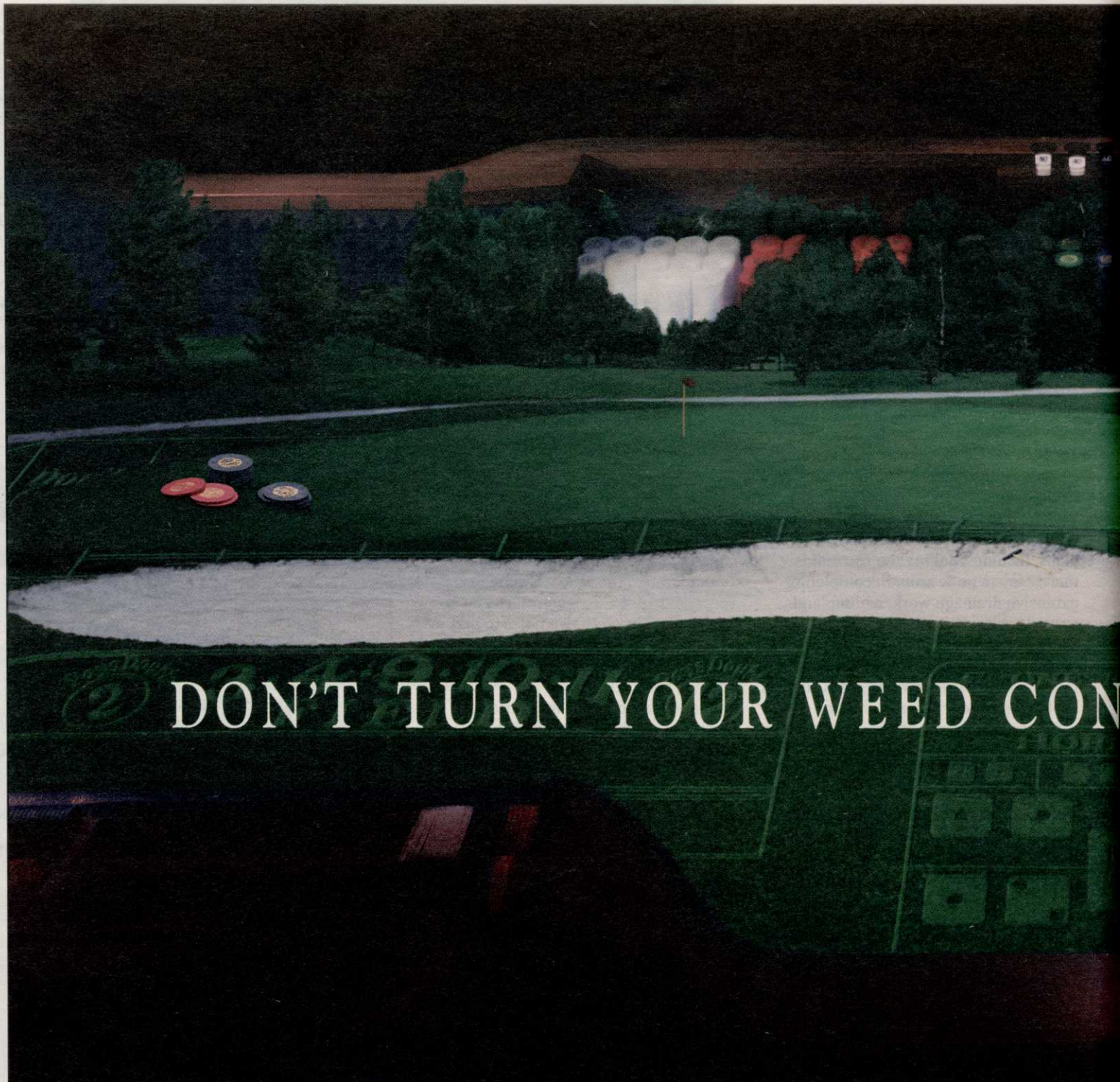
## Gasoline can spell d-a-n-g-e-r

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-

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## Gas transport and handling

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ers slide around even a slight amount.

When either the container or the liner is made of plastic, the plastic material serves as an insulator so the built-up static charge is not easily dissipated.

This charge may be retained

on the outside of the container or in the gasoline itself, conditions perfect for an explosion.

A charged can also be generated when filling the container. While fueling, gasoline flowing through the pump nozzle can also produce a static electricity charge.

This can create a spark be-

tween the container and fuel nozzle, igniting gasoline vapors and causing a fire or explosion. The dangers are greatest on cold, dry days, but the hazard still exists under most climate conditions.

The National Highway Safety Transportation Administration (NHSTA) advises people to place portable containers on the ground before filling them with

gasoline rather than filling them in the pickup bed. If the container is too large to move, use a smaller container.

The NHTSA says they have found two-dozen fires and five injuries associated with static electricity discharge from portable fuel containers.

Most of the fires involved pickup trucks that had plastic bedliners. Fires also resulted

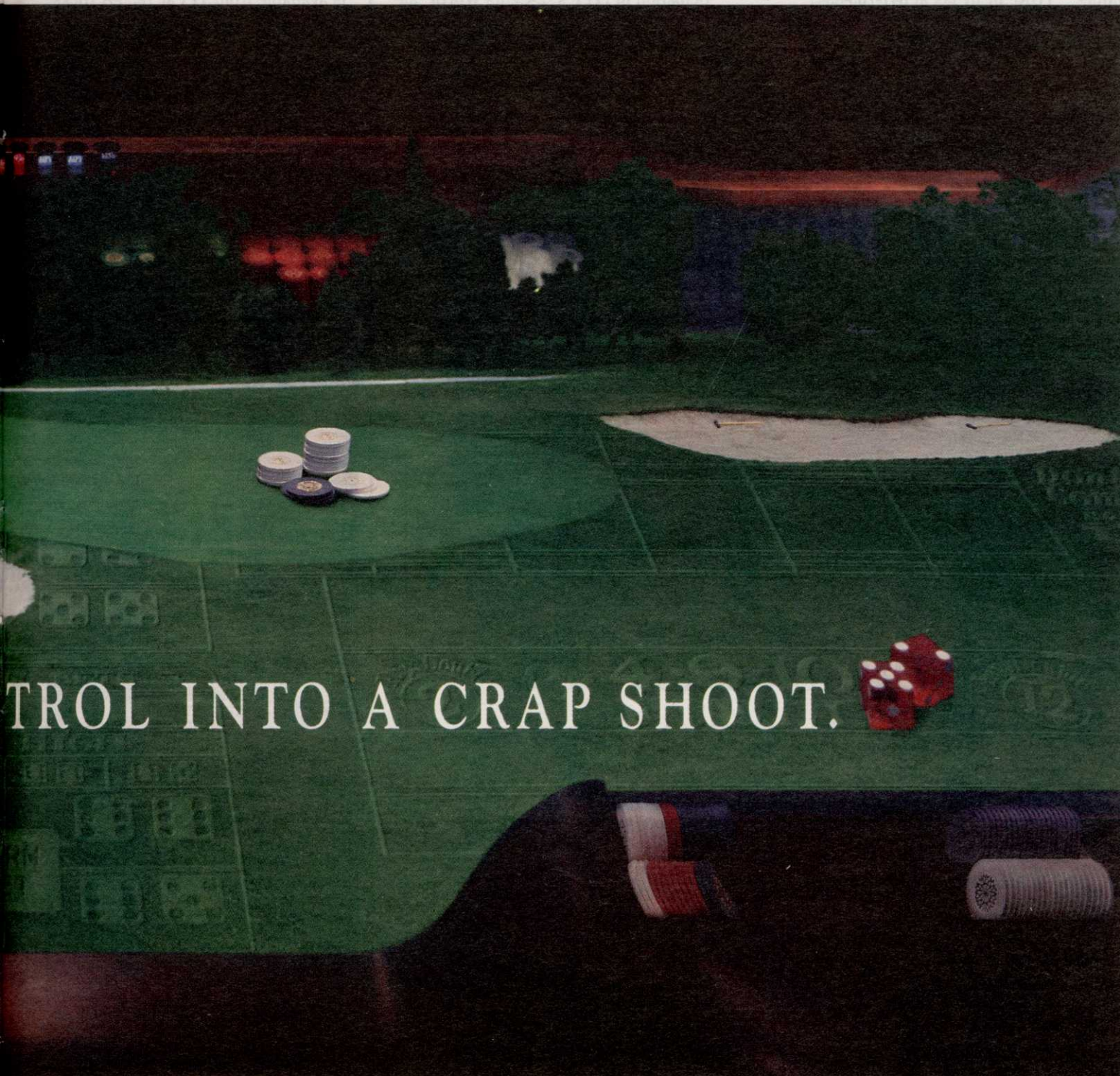
while portable gasoline containers were in filled trunks and passenger compartments of vehicles where carpeting acts as an insulator.

The NHSTA also warns that gasoline should be carried only in approved containers. When filling, bring the fill nozzle in contact with the inside of the fill opening before operating the nozzle.

Keep the nozzle in constant contact with the container at all times while filling.

Do not completely fill containers since gasoline expands as it warms up. Do not use latch-open devices to fill portable containers. Clean up spills immediately.

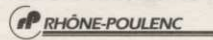
Finally, secure the container tightly in the truck, and of course don't smoke while handling gasoline.



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## Glen Mills



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Lake City (Fla.) Community College were consulted on how best to establish golf course management and maintenance curriculum at Glen Mills.

Said Ipock, "Many of our students are from minorities. To my knowledge, I don't know of any other project that will highlight minority youth involvement in golf to such a dramatic degree as this will. The proposal has been well received by the community. Local businesses and residents have been very supportive of what we are trying to do."

The course's design will feature such state-of-the-art features as computerized irrigation and an integrated pest management system. "We are being very environmentally sensitive," said Ipock, who adds that the decision to contract Weed Design was an easy one. "We liked Bobby's commitment to the project. He's given us a great routing and technical support, and he understands what we are all about."

Weed is pleased with the opportunity. "There's a lot of diversity in the terrain, from open meadows to streams to hardwood stands. We're excited. It's a great property and it lends itself to a great layout. This will be a tremendous opportunity for the kids."