

Lightning safety group lists guidelines

By WILLIAM SIURU

Recently a Lightning Safety Group (LSG) has recommended precautions to reduce the danger from lightning. The group was made up of NASA, NOAA and the USAF meteorologists as well as lightning experts from academia, insurance companies

and private concerns supplying lightning protection equipment. Their recommendations were aimed at both individuals as well as anyone doing business outdoors, including golf courses.

The LSG recommended that when groups are involved, whether it is a company picnic or

a golf course, that there be an "action plan." The action plan should include both the detection of lightning and what to do when there is threatening lightning activity in the area. All people involved must be familiar with the plan in advance, review the plan periodically and participate in drills.

Detecting Lightning

Designate someone to continuously monitor local weather forecasts, NOAA Weather radio, or the Weather Channel to ascertain if thunderstorms are in the forecast. Also special instrumentation for detecting lightning should be considered to ensure consistency, accuracy and adequate advance warning. Detectors are also valuable in deter-

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mining the "All Clear" so golfers can go back on the course, maintenance crews can return to their tasks and other activities can resume. The "All Clear" signal should be considerably different than the "Warning" signal.

Visual detection is also important. If you can see lightning and/or hear thunder you are already at risk. Ever louder or more frequent thunder indicates lightning is approaching, increasing the risk. If the time between the flash and the bang is less than 30 seconds, evacuate everyone to a safe location. However, this method of ranging has limitations due to the difficulty of associating thunder to the corresponding flash.

High winds, rain, and cloud cover often act as precursors to cloud-to-ground strikes, so notify and evacuate everyone to safer locations. Many times lightning casualties occur as the storm approaches because people ignore the precursors. Generally, the lightning threat diminishes with time after the last sound of thunder, but may persist for more than 30 minutes.

Evacuation

No place is absolutely safe from lightning. However, some are safer than others.

Safer sites must be identified beforehand, along with procedures to evacuate every one to those locations.

Large enclosed structures, such as substantially constructed buildings, tend to be much safer than smaller or open structures. Fully enclosed metal vehicles — cars, trucks, buses — with the windows rolled up provide good shelter from lightning. However, avoid contact with metal or conducting surfaces inside or outside the vehicle. Avoid open vehicles, like convertibles and golf carts. Also avoid high places, open fields, isolated trees, gazebos, rain or picnic shelters, towers, flagpoles, light poles, metal or wood bleachers, metal fences, and all bodies of water — oceans, lakes, swimming pools, rivers, etc.

When inside a building during a lightning period, avoid using the telephone, taking a shower, washing your hands, doing dishes, or any contact surfaces with exposure to the outside such as metal door or window frames, electrical wiring, telephone wiring, cable TV wiring, plumbing, etc.

When larger groups are involved, the time needed to properly evacuate an area increases. Therefore, the distance at which

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Kingsmill Resort GM receives top award from American Hotel & Motel Assn.

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Terri Haack, vice president and general manager of Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg, Va., has been named General Manager of the Year in the category of large properties of more than 300 rooms by the American Hotel & Motel Association (AHMA).

The award honors a general manager who has demonstrated professionalism in operating a lodging property and taken a leadership role in the industry by actively participating in association, community or industry programs.

Haack received the award at the AHMA's Annual Conference and Leadership Forum in Reno, Nev., in April.

A hospitality veteran for more than 20 years, Haack has managed resorts and hotels in Washington state, Delaware, and Colorado before arriving at

her current position at Kingsmill.

Haack's accomplishments were first highlighted in 1978 when she was recognized as the youngest convention hotel general manager in the country at age 22. Named among the Rising

Stars in the Hospitality Industry by *Lodging* magazine in 1992, Haack joined Anheuser-Busch Companies to manage the luxury resort in the 3,000-acre planned community of Kingsmill on the James. The resort consists of 400 villa suites, 63 holes of golf, full-service spa, 100-slip marina, 15-

court tennis facility and a state-of-the-art conference center. Kingsmill's River Course is home of the Michelob Championship at Kingsmill on the PGA Tour.

The performance of the resort has continued to exceed corporate projections since 1993 and posted record-breaking results in 1997.



Mountain View changes name to Cottonfields

LAVEEN, Ariz.—Mountain View Golf Club, located in the southwest corner of metropolitan Phoenix, is under new management and has changed its name to The CottonFields Golf Club.

The 36-hole facility, designed by Dan Pohl, is now being managed by Lyon Golf, the same company that manages the ASU Karsten Golf Course in Tempe and Chaparral Pines Golf Club in Payson.

"We decided to change the name to

reflect the history of the local area and to highlight the enhancements we've made to the facility and guest services," said Kurt Krause, director of golf.

Each of The CottonFields' two 18-hole golf courses has its own distinct personality. The Harvest Course is an open layout with rolling fairways and generous landing areas. By contrast, the Meadow Course is more defined and lined with hundreds of mature shade trees.

Lightning

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lightning is considered a threat must be increased. A longer detection and warning is also needed when individuals are a long distance from safe locations. Note, extending the threat range increases the chance that a localized cell or thunderstorm may not reach the area very quickly giving the impression of a "false alarm."

The LSG recommends placing lightning safety tips and evacuation routes in flyers or on score cards. Placing lightning safety placards around the area to communicate the lightning threat will also raise awareness.

First aid for lightning victims

Most lightning victims actually survive their encounter with lightning, especially if they receive medical treatment in time. Incidentally, people struck by lightning do not carry a charge, so it is safe to touch them to provide to first aid. The first tenet of emergency care is "make no more casualties."

Make sure someone calls 911. This person should be prepared to calmly provide the dispatcher with the nature and extent of injuries, detailed location and directions and number of victims. Then they should stay on the phone to get further instructions.

If the area where the victim is located is a high-risk area, such as under of an isolated tree or on an open golf course, rescuers could be placing themselves in significant danger.

In an active thunderstorm, the rescuer needs to decide if evacuation from very high risk areas to an area of lesser risk is warranted. They should not be afraid to move the victim if necessary. It is relatively unusual for victims who survive a lightning strike to have major fractures that would cause paralysis or major bleeding complications unless they have suffered a fall or been thrown a distance.

If the victim is not breathing, start mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. If the victim is to be moved, give a few quick breaths prior to moving them. Determine if the victim has a pulse by checking the pulse at the carotid (side of the neck) or femoral (groin) for at least 20 to 30 seconds. If not, start cardiac compression as well. In cold and wet situations, put a protective layer between the victim and the ground to decrease hypothermia, a condition that can further complicate resuscitation. If the pulse returns, the rescuer should continue ventilation with rescue breathing if needed for as long as practical. However, if a pulse does not return after 20 to 30 minutes of good effort, the rescuer should not feel guilty about stopping resuscitation efforts.

Cobblestone acquires Virginia Oaks GC

DEL MAR, Calif.—Cobblestone Golf Group, Inc. has acquired Virginia Oaks Golf Club in Gainesville, Va., along Lake Manassas in Prince William County.

Virginia Oaks is an 18-hole, upscale daily-fee course designed by P.B. Dye and opened for play in June of 1995. Cobblestone purchased the property from The Peterson Companies, a Fairfax, Va.-based land development company.

Virginia Oaks is Cobblestone's second golf club in Virginia. Cobblestone acquired Brandermill Country Club in Richmond in March of 1995.

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In other news, Cobblestone has appointed Glenn Karp director of acquisitions. Prior to joining Cobblestone, Karp had an extensive background in both real estate and professional golf with CB Commercial and Triangle Sports.

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