

Wood Shelters Give Best Protection Against Lightning

Deaths this summer of three Chicago area golfers who took refuge inside a shelter during an electrical storm prompted the Chicago District Golf Assn. to make an investigation to determine the safest possible shelter during such storms.

After consulting the Northwestern University School of Engineering, University of Illinois, National Safety Council, GCSA, USGA, Ray N. Didier, a course construction engineer, and other sources, the CDGA came to this conclusion:

A shelter, to offer the best protection against the lightning hazard, should be constructed entirely of wood with a wood floor mounted on wood posts or piers. It should be located in a low spot on the course, removed from land elevation or hills and away from trees. A lightning rod should project from the highest point of the shelter and be properly grounded deep in moist earth so that a path is provided for the electrical discharge to reach the moist earth without passing through non-conducting parts of the structure.

Ground Connection Is Key

This path must be made continuous from the highest part of the shelter to moisture in the earth. The ground connection is the key to the efficiency of the whole protection system.

The cost of attaching lightning rods to existing shelters, the CDGA finds, ranges from about \$55 to \$75. It is recommended that materials be approved by Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., and should be so labeled. Periodic checks of the protection system should be made for bent, loose or missing air terminals, broken conductor cables and loose conducting clamps.

When trees are struck by lightning, the discharge is transmitted to nearby areas. Trees that require special lightning rod protection are ones that are higher than nearby buildings. Trees should be protected by installing one or more rods at the highest secure part of the tree and grounding through conductors. If shelters on a course are located within clumps of trees it is recommended that terminals be attached to one or more of the tallest trees in the group.

New Foundation Office

The National Golf Foundation expects to be in its new office, 804 Merchandise Mart, Chicago, by Oct. 1st.

SCGA Distributes Campaign Kit in California Tax Fight

In its fight to have golf courses throughout the state assessed on the basis of their use as courses, and not at their highest and most profitable use, the Southern California Golf Assn. has distributed an impressive campaign kit to aid golf clubs and associations in winning support for tax relief. Voting on Proposition 6, a recreation conservation measure, on Nov. 8 will determine whether golf courses will continue to be assessed as if they were subdivisions, factory sites or commercial areas. An article describing the need for re-assessment appeared in *Golfdom* in July (page 25).

The campaign kit contains an analysis of Proposition 6; two pamphlets, "Keep California Green and Clean," and "Keep the Wide Open Spaces in Our State," which explains the facts behind the measure and the need for a "Yes" vote in the November election; material for editorials and speeches; sample copies of two resolutions favoring tax relief; and similar material to aid in producing a favorable vote.

Club members are being asked to play the leading role in getting voters to support the recreation measure. They are being urged to organize campaign committees which will enlist the aid of newspapers and industrial, civic and other groups in the tax fight.

Proposition 6, it is pointed out in the campaign literature, doesn't provide tax exemption. It does establish a public mandate for assessors to tax property for what it actually is and not what it might be. Present assessment and taxation, it is said, has in some instances helped speed the elimination of farms, orchards, orange groves, some golf courses and even homes.

Edward K. Zuckerman, pres. of the Southern California GA, is serving as coordinator of the tax fight campaign.

USGA Green Section Meets

Green section of the USGA will meet at the St. Louis CC, Clayton, Mo., on Sept. 14th, according to William C. Chapin. The meeting has been arranged for the week during which the National Amateur is being played in Clayton.

Air Force Championship

The U. S. Air Force Worldwide golf championship will be played at Randolph AFB, San Antonio, Tex., Sept. 24-29. The base course is 7200 yards and has water hazards on 16 of 18 holes.