

FIRST AID: WHAT'S PAR FOR THE

Tom takes a few practice swings on the first tee and conks Bill on the head; John slices a ball two fairways over hitting Alice in the face; Suzie dives into the swimming pool and hits her neck on the bottom; little Timmy gets into the superintendent's chemicals; a bee stings Betty; George, in his spikes, slips in the locker room.

Most of the above accidents could have been prevented, but unfortunately, one or all occur annually at most golf clubs. Are you and your staff prepared to handle these kinds of emergencies with the proper training and equipment? Although a club official may be a stickler for safety, in too many instances he is not prepared should emergency equipment actually be needed. It's rationalized that accidents happen at "other" clubs. So, the equipment on hand to deal with these unexpected accidents is usually a box of bandages or an inadequate first-aid kit.

It will probably cost the club anywhere from \$500 to \$900 to be adequately outfitted to handle emergencies which might arise around the golf course.

An accident on the golf course is the dread of every club. It may be a long time from when the alarm goes out until professional help arrives, but positive action by the manager, professional, superintendent and their staffs may spell the difference between life and death for an accident victim. The very definition of first aid is the *immediate* and *temporary* care given the victim of an accident or illness until the services of a doctor can take over.

This is not a "how to" first-aid guide. Rather, it is a fundamental listing of the type of equipment, and its uses, which are necessary for every golf club. Although most of the accidents that occur on a golf course are preventable, the club official can find little solace in knowing that it wasn't the club's fault the accident happened, if he wasn't prepared to handle the emergency.



The initial step in the area of first aid a club should employ is in communications. Most golf clubs, private and public, have a membership that includes at least one physician, fireman or policeman. A notice, followed by continual reminders, asking these people to register when they are at the club provides you with an expert in the knowledge of first-aid procedures. All the doctor, fireman or policeman has to do is inform the club when he arrives to play golf. The club notes the time he tees off. Then, should an emergency arise, he can be found quickly. This procedure is not practiced enough at golf courses. If the doctor does sign in, any calls that

come in are usually related to his private practice.

A procedure should also be established for calling emergency units. Telephone numbers of emergency units, ambulances, police and hospitals should be clearly posted on every phone. Delays looking for these numbers or dialing the operator can mean precious seconds are lost.

Communications at various points on the golf course should also be investigated. Many maintenance crews carry walkie-talkies connected to either the office switchboard or the superintendent's office. If your course has this type of communications system, make sure your staff

CURSE

Is your club adequately prepared to handle emergencies which can occur on the golf course, around the clubhouse or swimming pool? Quick thinking and basic first-aid equipment can avert tragedies



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and the members know about this capability for emergencies.

One of the most extensive (not expensive) communications systems exists at Dellwood CC in New City, N.Y. General manager John Straub got eight physician-members at the club to volunteer and carry club-owned walkie-talkies in their golf bags while they are playing golf. Superintendent Jerry Scafa and his crew also have communications equipment. In addition, there are three telephones located on trees at remote parts of the course. Installation cost of these phones was minimal, and now that they are connected to the club's telephone system; there

Basic first-aid equipment should include: 1. oxygen unit (\$80-\$100, large); 2. ambu resuscitation unit (\$200-\$225, hand unit, \$55-\$60; 3. stretcher or fracture board (\$30-\$50, minimal if handmade); 4. insect sting kit (\$5-\$5.50); 5. snake bite kit (\$2.95, optional); 6. first-aid kit (\$35, large; \$10 and up, small); 7. inflatable splint set (\$50 and up, complete; \$6-\$12 for each part, optional); 8. hot and cold packs (\$.75-\$1.50 each, optional). All prices are approximate.

are no phone company charges. Although every club hopes that these systems never have to be used for emergencies, Dellwood's has already begun paying dividends. "In one particular instance," Straub re-

calls, "one of our members suffered a heart attack while playing golf. A member of the foursome flagged the club's ranger. He in turn used his communication system to contact the club's switchboard. The switchboard contacted the police and ambulance and also called one of the physicians with a walkie-talkie who was playing golf. He was on a nearby fairway and rushed over and gave first aid. The maintenance vehicles, in addition to carrying communications systems, are equipped with first aid kits and oxygen. Less than two minutes elapsed from the time the member collapsed until a physician was at his side. Fortunately, this story had a happy ending, and the member is still playing golf today, thanks to the quick reaction of members and club officials."

When calling for emergency units, remember they will probably not be familiar with the layout of the club. Make sure someone is available to direct the emergency units to the spot. Time can be lost if they have to drive around trying to find assistance. If a club has emergency exits, or fences along its boundaries, they may be quicker and more accessible than driving to the clubhouse and then out onto the course.

And don't pooh-pooh any of those "strange but true" golf stories. According to Sergeant Brian O'Donnell of the Greenwich, Conn., Police Dept., any combination of accidents can occur on the golf course. O'Donnell, who has lectured to the Metropolitan Section of the Golf Course Superintendents Assn. on first aid for golf courses, has witnessed the impossible and inconceivable. "It is amazing the number of possibilities one can conjure up pertaining to accidents on the golf course," says the 11 1/2-year police veteran. "Falls, drownings in both swimming pools and irrigation ponds, bee stings, being hit by clubs or balls, heat prostration, heart attacks and strokes, golf car accidents, chemical burns

continued

FIRST AID *continued*

and ingestions, cuts and abrasions on the tennis court, snake bites, maintenance men cut by mowers, lightning, people breaking legs by falling over sprinkler heads, you can go on and on. While accidents and injuries are a pretty morbid subject," O'Donnell continues, "a club, nevertheless, must be prepared to handle any emergency.

"Every year we issue warnings about lightning," says O'Donnell, "and every year we have one or two people at a golf facility struck down. We had an incident last year," he relates, "where a person was struck by lightning as he was playing tennis. Fortunately, a passing patrol car saw the incident and was able to save the person's life. Some golfers want to play that 'one more round,' overexert themselves and have a stroke on the course. These accidents, taken into account with the number of people who are seriously injured by stray golf balls or shattered clubs, leads me to conclude that the golf course is a prime breeding ground for accidents," O'Donnell states. "Constant vigilance to safety must be maintained by all club officials and they must be prepared always for the unexpected."

Roderick A. Granzen, M.D., of the Scarsdale Medical Group and a member of Winged Foot GC, Mamaroneck, N.Y., can also testify to the eerie and unpredictable nature of accidents which can haunt a golf club. "Electrocution by lightning is not that rare on golf courses," says Dr. Granzen. "If a person is struck by lightning," Granzen says, "he is either 'dead' or severely burned. In some cases there is no evidence of injury but the sudden shock just stops all of the life giving functions. In one case," he recalls, "a person was struck by lightning, and because there were no visible signs of life he was presumed dead. When the emergency units arrived, he was given mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and closed chest cardiac massage and actually brought back to life."

Some of the basic equipment which clubs should carry, according to O'Donnell and Dr. Granzen, is just lying around the club and can be made useful by using a little ingenuity. A club can purchase a **stretcher**, but an important piece of equipment which can be fabricated and serve the

same function is a **fracture board**. The fracture board can be made of three-fourths- or one-inch plywood, 2 1/2 feet wide and approximately 6 1/2 feet long. Hand holds should be cut around the sides and straps can be added. This device can be used to transport persons with broken bones, neck or spinal injuries. Although it goes without saying that injured persons should not be moved unless absolutely necessary, some areas of the golf course are inaccessible, this means of transportation may be necessary. Also, swimming pool accidents, when a person dives into the pool and hits his head or neck on the bottom, are frequent. Damage is generally done to the neck or spinal region, and the person normally should not be moved. However, if he is in the water, he must be taken out. A fracture board at pool-side can be placed under the victim while he is still in the water. Because it is rigid, it assures that broken bones are not dislodged or moved. A pillow should also be attached to the fracture board.

A very basic item and therefore one normally overlooked are **blankets**. They not only provide additional padding for the fracture board, but more importantly, maintain the body temperature, not overheating, but preventing chills or shock from setting in.

Several good **first-aid kits** are also a prerequisite at every course. Not one with just bandages, aspirin and methiolate, but one with large-type battle dressings for packing a wound or gash. Tournequets are generally included, but, and this is the case of all equipment and procedures, they must be used only by qualified and knowledgeable personnel.

Inflatable splints are also valuable and could prevent permanent physical damage should a person need to be moved before help arrives. They are simple to operate and fit over shoes or trousers. Again, this equipment should be handled by qualified personnel.

Medical oxygen and masks are extremely important when filling the first-aid arsenal. Strokes are an everyday possibility for golf clubs and especially for clubs with older memberships. Several oxygen units should be located at strategic locations around the golf course and clubhouse.

For the swimming pool and stroke victims an **ambu resuscitation unit**, a special breathing bag with mouthpiece is literally a life-saver. However, until this equipment arrives, rescue breathing in the form of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation must be administered. Both Dr. Granzen and O'Donnell point out the differences between an oxygen unit and the resuscitation unit. "Oxygen is great, if a person is breathing and air can reach his lungs," Granzen says, "however, it doesn't do any good if the air passage is blocked. For this reason, a resuscitation unit is vital, because it may get the victim breathing again." Oxygen can be connected to this unit. The resuscitation unit sells for about \$200. Both recommend the club have at least two, one at pool-side and one in the clubhouse.

Salt tablets are a must at every club. They should be located in the locker room and at some place on the back nine. Members should be encouraged to use them for replacing salt lost through perspiration and to help prevent heat prostration. Plenty of water should be drunk with the salt tablets to prevent nausea.

Insect sting kits provide equipment not available in regular first-aid kits. They are for extreme allergic reaction to insect stings. They contain adrenalin for acute reaction. (Adrenalin can be administered by non-physicians in an emergency. For legal questions refer to the Good Samaritan Law discussed later.) According to O'Donnell, emergency units treat insect sting reactions as a code one emergency, their highest, because they can be fatal in minutes. The reaction affects the nervous system and may cause suffocation and/or shock. There's no time to wait around for help to arrive in this instance. Just head for the nearest hospital.

Anti-venom snake bit kits should be purchased if poisonous snakes are common in your area. Such kits are best used only if early transportation to the hospital is unavailable. Again, action should be taken by a qualified person, but the club must have the equipment on hand for him to use.

Golf course chemicals can also cause accidents. Although it may happen to someone on the superintendent's staff, chemical ingestions and burns are more likely to occur to the curious child who wanders around

continued on page 65



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FIRST AID from page 60

the maintenance shed and sees an unused barrel of arsenicals or fertilizers. In the case of chemical ingestion, Dr. Granzen advises club personnel not to induce vomiting. "In the case of some acids swallowed," O'Donnell adds, "if they burn going down, and you induce vomiting, it will just do that much more damage and burn all the way up. Instead, contact your local poison control center."

Chemical burns or kitchen grease burns also require immediate first aid because they will continue to burn until action is taken to stop them. "Don't put any salve on the burn," they emphasize, "because that junk could cause serious infection. Instead, flush the area immediately and for a long time with plain cold water and cover the burn with a sterile bandage."

"Many golf courses have large irrigation ponds to supply their water needs," O'Donnell says. "In the summer small children can wander near these ponds and stumble in. A life preserver and a 50- to 75-foot length of nylon rope should be available in case the banks are steep and the victim cannot be reached. Ropes should also be available near wells. In the winter when these ponds freeze, kids may try to ice skate on them," O'Donnell adds. "Ropes are very handy, as is the fracture board, should accidents on the ice occur."

The final step in preparing your club for emergencies, but is most important, is education.

The **American Red Cross** offers courses in first aid in virtually every city in the United States or through high schools or universities. Certain key employees, such as the superintendent, manager, professional and their assistants should take this course. "When they have completed the course," Dr. Granzen says, "they should familiarize the other club employees on basic first-aid procedures (mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, how to report emergencies) and acquaint them with the operation of the equipment. This can be supplemented by having a member-physician hold a question and answer session.

"Many club officials could hesitate to render assistance," Dr. Granzen says, "because of fear of lawsuits. New York and several other states have what is known as a Good

continued on page 98

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do not know the details of how the business is run but reports of performance is good.

Some older experienced superintendents look after more than one course. This in effect is a form of contract maintenance. They assume a certain responsibility for which they are paid.

Contract maintenance could be conducted by a responsible corporation which would assume full responsibility for year-around grooming. The club would meet contract payments, but would have no further requirement. Performance would be bonded. The program would be conducted by certified superintendents who have proved their ability by past performance. I can visualize an enhanced status for qualified superintendents, together with an improvement in pay scale, retirement and fringe benefits. A profit-oriented corporation would be obliged to maintain high standards in every department.

It would appear that more efficient large-scale buying (or leasing) would bring about savings in equipment, fertilizers, chemicals and other items.

There must be some disadvantages in the idea of contract maintenance but so far no one has pointed them out to me nor have I discovered them.

Q—An official at our club engaged a private independent soil testing laboratory to sample and test the soils on our new course which isn't built yet. We are quite unfamiliar with their figures and their terminology. They reported the quantity of nitrogen in the soil and used that to calculate the N needed to establish the turf. We think that their recommendations are too low. We enclose a copy of the test results. Your comments? (Virginia)

A—Nor am I familiar with their method of reporting. It seems that they are farm-oriented because their explanations revolve around manure, legumes-plowed-down and crop residue. I must agree that the nitrogen recommendations for establishment are too low. Ureaform was recommended but the quantity was too small to be significant.

My suggestion is to contact your state extension turf specialist. □

Samaritan Law. This law gives laymen (club officials) and professionals (doctors, policemen and firemen) the right to render first aid without fear of legal prosecution," he says. "It has been discovered in some states, that physicians would pass the scene of an accident because of fear of malpractice suits," Dr. Granzen says. "The New York law protects the 'good samaritan' even if he does things totally wrong. Club officials should check with lawyer-members to see if their states have such a law. Clubs are more liable to have lawsuits brought against them if they are not prepared to handle an emergency," says Dr. Granzen. "In some cases, suits have charged clubs with negligence, because they did not anticipate strokes and have the emergency equipment available."

Both Dr. Granzen and O'Donnell agree that good first-aid procedures are really common sense. "There can be only one boss at the scene of an accident directing traffic," Granzen says, "and he must keep the crowd away from the victim, administer first aid and keep the victim from panicking." "One of the major concerns of older people," O'Donnell adds, "is the reassurance that they are going to be okay. Their primary concern, however, is generally over their spouse."

Death or serious injury on the golf course because a club was not prepared can have a detrimental effect on the attitudes of the membership. They could always wonder what would happen if they were next. Besides causing sleepless nights for the unprepared manager, professional or superintendent, it may also cost him his job.

Saving a life can take a few dollars worth of investment in equipment and a few hours investment in education. But you can't put a price tag on the results if you're caught unprepared. First aid: It's equipment and knowledge you need, but hope you will never have to use. □

Correction

Merit Associates Inc., manufacturer of the Sight-Line Putter, was erroneously listed in our PGA Merchandise Show preview (GOLFDOM, January, p. 71) as Merritt Assn., Inc. The company's address is 224 South St., Freehold, N.J. 07728.

ment. "We were just out of our line with turf maintenance equipment," he says. "Warren's does not expect to continue in the turf maintenance area, but will instead increase its concentration of distribution of its line of turfgrasses."

Jack Hahn, executive vice president of Hahn, said that the agreement with Ransomes would be a milestone for both companies. "The position of Hahn West Point distributors in this country will be greatly strengthened through the addition of a wider range of specialized grass cutting equipment. Hahn's gross sales last year were \$16 million," Hahn says. "Ransomes sales were \$31 million. We expect the agreement to increase Hahn sales by between 10 to 20 per cent initially. We will complement each other very well," Hahn says. "Ransomes is involved in walk behind green mowers and has gang mowers. Hahn has riding mowers, verti-cutters and aerators."

As part of the agreement, Ransomes has made a convertible loan of a substantial amount to Hahn, thus ensuring a long-term relationship between the two companies.

Credle changes name to Midwest Toro
Credle Company, a distributor for The Toro Company, has changed its name to **Midwest Toro**.

Midwest Toro is the distributor for Toro's three major product lines—power mowers, turf equipment for golf courses, parks, schools and cemeteries, and Moist O'Matic underground lawn sprinkler equipment. Midwest Toro is also the distributor for over 50 other turf equipment product lines.

Japanese ball hits pro-only market

The first Japanese-manufactured golf ball for pro shops only has been announced by Jiro Yamamoto, president of **Rainbow Sales Company** of Gardena, Calif. The **Skyway** golf ball is manufactured by Bridgestone Tire Company, Ltd., of Japan.

The ball is coated with a new, thick chemical (polyurethane) for extra durability. The cover is abrasion and moisture proof and has a liquid center. The ball, approved and tested by the United States Golf Assn., is being offered in pro shops in 80, 90, and 100 compression.