

Idea file

Exhaust danger rises in winter

The potential for carbon monoxide poisoning increases during colder weather and exposure to an engine's exhaust fumes is the most common cause of sickness or death, says Dr. Gary Nelson, safety engineer.

The exhaust system of motor vehicles should be checked for leaks and engines should not be turned on inside a building unless garage doors have been opened; this includes trucks, tractors, and other combustion-engined maintenance vehicles. Dr. Nelson also says that fuel-burning heaters should have the vents pointed to the outside of the building.

The poison causes a person to become dizzy, drowsy, unable to concentrate, and blurs their vision. The remedy is an immediate supply of fresh air.

Good first impression brings golfers back

So says Don Nagode, owner of Fallen Timber golf Course in Midway, Pa., near Pittsburgh, and he believes a bright, concise scorecard is a necessity.

Nagode spent \$700 for a black and orange logo that appears on the inside of the card. Above the descriptions of the yardage, par, and handicap for each hole is a diagram of the hole and location of its sand traps and water hazards.

Each nine is printed on opposite sides of the scorecard. When a foursome has finished the first nine, the card folds so the scorekeeper does not have to write each player's name a second time. It sometimes helps avoid confusion about scores on the first three or four holes of the second nine.

Invite holiday shoppers to your pro shop

Owners and golf pros should send letters to their members and customers to remind them that Christmas shopping in the pro shop will mean extra service and less people, says Robert Hornung, owner of Hornung's Golf Pro Shop Sales, Inc., the world's largest golf equipment distributor. The letter should list the hours and days the shop will be open.

Other ways to attract customers to buy Christmas gifts include offering layaway plans, holding a cocktail party with free drinks and hors d'oeuvres or holding a sale on one item. Hornung says many large manufacturers will give away free balls before Christmas.

Caddymaster eligible for overtime pay?

Clubs and course owners who keep a close eye on employee earnings should be aware that a caddymaster is not exempt from overtime pay if he or she is not supervising at least two full-time employees.

According to a spokesman from the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division, the caddymaster can receive overtime pay if supervision is at least 80 percent of his job. The caddies cannot be regarded as full-time employees since the Labor Department has taken no stand on their status.

Regular "men's" tees discourage seniors

Golf courses should stop designating its tees "men's" and "women's" to accommodate senior citizens, says Cecil McKay Jr., owner of McKay Realty Co., a real estate firm that sells and appraises golf courses.

"What's wrong with letting seniors hit from shorter tees? They can't hit the ball as far as they used to," McKay told persons attending the National Golf Foundation's daily fee course management workshop last month. He believes the terminology has frustrated some seniors from coming out to the golf course. Why not just use the standard color designations?

Friendly, responsive people try harder

Make eye contact when you talk; show the way you feel by the expression on your face and laugh at yourself.

These actions will help put people at ease and probably make them friendlier toward you, says Dorothy Taylor, family life education specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Looking into another person's eyes lets them "know you're tuned in and interested," says Miss Taylor. A facial expression, whether it's one of joy or concern, is more likely to invite others to respond; sharing a "put-down" should make others recognize their own shortcomings and warm to you, she says.

Daily breakfast specials push wine, off-beat foods

The Tides Inn, a golf resort in Irvington, Va., offers breakfast specials each morning that may contain fish, wine, or cornbread. For instance, each Monday persons can order scrambled eggs that include oysters and bits of ham.

Thursday's special is creamed chipped beef on homemade toast, seasoned with mushrooms and wine, and Saturday's offering is chicken stew on cornbread. The restaurant also suggests to customers that they order a glass of rosé wine with breakfast, a tradition in many New Orleans restaurants.

Owner should handle golf league details

Daily fee golf course owners and managers should act as the secretary for any golf leagues they are trying to form, says Bill Howard, owner of Saskatoon Golf Course in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Howard's course had two leagues when it opened in 1964, but now has 33 leagues averaging 42 players each. He says that accepting the organizing duties avoids confusion and makes certain the leagues play during your time schedule.

He requires leagues to play 22 weeks each year after experiencing problems with golfers who decided to quit early in autumn since many participated in bowling leagues. "If they only want 18 weeks, we don't take them," he said.

Prepare two maps for course remodeling

Club managers or other golf course personnel who want to remodel their golf course should obtain topographical and aerial maps of the club's facilities says Edwin Seay, past president of the American Society of Golf Course architects.

The manager should also consult an architect and have him meet with the golf course committee to discuss improvements. The architect should draw up an improvement plan and provide the club manager with a cost estimate for each hole.

Once the board of directors has adopted the final plan, consult with the architect and develop a schedule over the next 2 or 3 years to implement it, Seay says. Finally, ask the board to budget or fund the money needed for each year of the remodeling plan.

Knowing inventory will prevent employee theft

Employee theft can be stopped if a manager knows the amount of goods in his inventory, according to Saul D. Astor, president of Management Safeguards, Inc., of New York.

"Nothing deters would-be thieves like the knowledge that inventory is so closely controlled that stolen goods will be missed quickly," Astor says. He also warns owners not to be "casual" about issuing keys, locking doors, and changing locks.

Astor advises owners to make a second check of incoming goods to guard against collusion between truck drivers and employees. He also believes the owner should have control over receiving reports and shipping orders to prevent duplicate or fraudulent payments and padding or destruction of shipping orders.

Caribbean vacation offers 4 free rounds

A "Golf Getaway" vacation to Trinidad or a combination trip to Trinidad and Tobago with four free golf rounds is available to couples through Hilton International. Persons can spend 8 days and 7 nights for \$248.50 each at the Trinidad Hilton and play the par 72, 6,600-yard St. Andrews International Course.

Or you can stay four nights in Trinidad and fly to Tobago for three nights at a cost of \$362.50 per person. This plan allows two free rounds at Mt. Irvine International Golf Course that is next to the Caribbean and covered with coconut palms. Airfare and meals are not included in either plan. Contact any travel agent for reservations or brochures.