

## Mixed Reaction

Jim Singerling, CEO of the Club Managers Association of America, said he was "delighted" the CMAA was joining the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) to form the Golf Industry Show in 2007. Most superintendents, however, don't like the idea, according to a recent *Golfdom* online poll.

The majority of superintendents we surveyed are against the CMAA joining the Golf Industry Show. While 33 percent of those surveyed said it was a "great idea" that CMAA was joining, 51 percent answered, "No. I don't like it. What happened to our show?"

Thirteen percent of superintendents answered, "I guess it's OK" if the CMAA joins the show.

The poll was based on 169 responses.

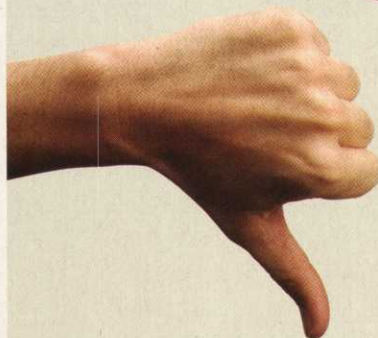
**33%**

Thought it was  
a great idea



**51%**

Said they did not  
like the idea



Hills Golf Club, an upscale daily-fee golf course in San Jose, Calif., owned by a group of six local businessmen. He will represent Cinnabar at the show and is thrilled with the merger.

"There are too many golf shows," Hoyt says. "I think this makes a lot of sense. There was no reason for the NGCOA not to join."

According to Hoyt, the combining of the shows is another way for golf courses to save money because they only have to send representatives to one event.

"In the last five years everyone has had to cut back and look at expenditures," he says. "This should have been done a long time ago." ■

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# What to Do in O-Town

## (Now That the Hurricanes Are Gone)

By Joel Jackson  
Contributing Editor

ORLANDO/ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU



Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, NASA's headquarters, is located about 45 minutes from Orlando.

**C**entral Florida had to hunker down during the 2004 hurricane season, but the area did not sustain any damage that will dampen a visitor's experience at the Golf Industry Show. All the theme parks were up and running within a day or two and are ready to entertain any families making the trip with their superintendent dads.

Area golf courses are open and will be crowded with snowbirds, so comp rounds might be harder to come by than say in July or August, but you can certainly try if you know someone who knows someone. (That someone isn't me.)

Trying to appeal not only to hungry and thirsty superintendents looking for a break from convention food, but also spouses who may make the journey to Orlando, here are some dining and shopping venues. Some were around in 2002, but there are new additions to the area. Many of the upper-end places are quite popular, so reservations may be necessary. Call ahead.

**On South International Drive:** If you don't want to venture too far afield, TGI Friday's Front Row Sports Bar and Restaurant, located just south of Sand Lake Road, offers a gazillion TV sets tuned in from everything from badminton to wrestling. If you are hankering for pint in a pub atmosphere, there's the Cricketer Arms located in the Mercado Plaza. For those with fat wallets and hearty appetites, Vito's Chop House and Charley's Steak House are local favorites. For the more eclectic pallet, the Bahamas Breeze restaurant of-

fers a Caribbean flavor to the dining experience, and Tu Tu Tangos has been a hit with its tapas-style dining. There are tons more places to eat along the strip, of course, with more modest pricing like Tony Roma's for Ribs and Darryl's to name a couple.

**North International Drive:** There's some new digs way north on I-Drive up past Wet & Wild near the Belz Outlet Mall area. A new shopping area called Festival Bay, which had a cinema multiplex and Bass Pro Shops last time you were here, now sports more shops and eateries, including a Coldstone Creamery, and Murray Brothers Caddy Shack Bar and Grill. We've had two University of South Florida alumni football watch parties there and our servers were "Worm Burner" and "Crank It" if that gives you a clue. Maybe GCSAA can get Bill Murray to drop in for a little Carl Spackler networking session.

For mind-boggling window shopping a little farther east up Interstate 4, there's the new Mall at Millennia (I know, but that's how THEY spell it), housing a Nordstrom's, Neiman Marcus and Macy's. The mall also has a P.F. Changs, McCormick & Schmicks and Cheesecake Factory. Across the street is a Mimi's Café and another TGI Friday's for dining without sticker shock.

**Sand Lake Road:** Go a couple of miles west of International Drive on Sand Lake Road and you'll find a new restaurant row in the Plaza Venezia and The Fountains shopping areas near

*Continued on page 34*



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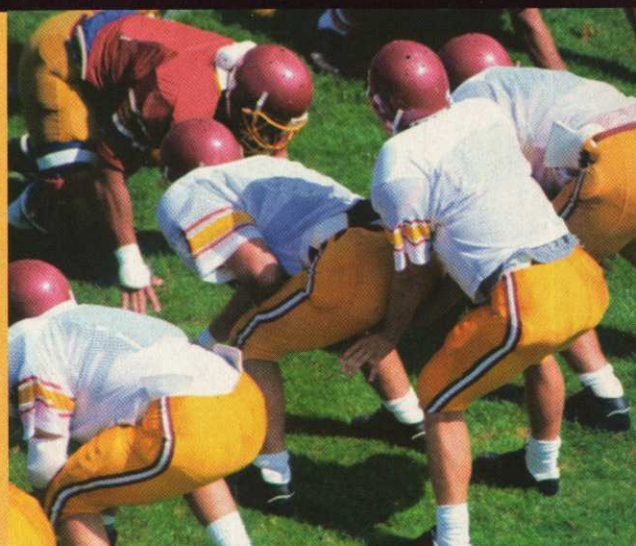
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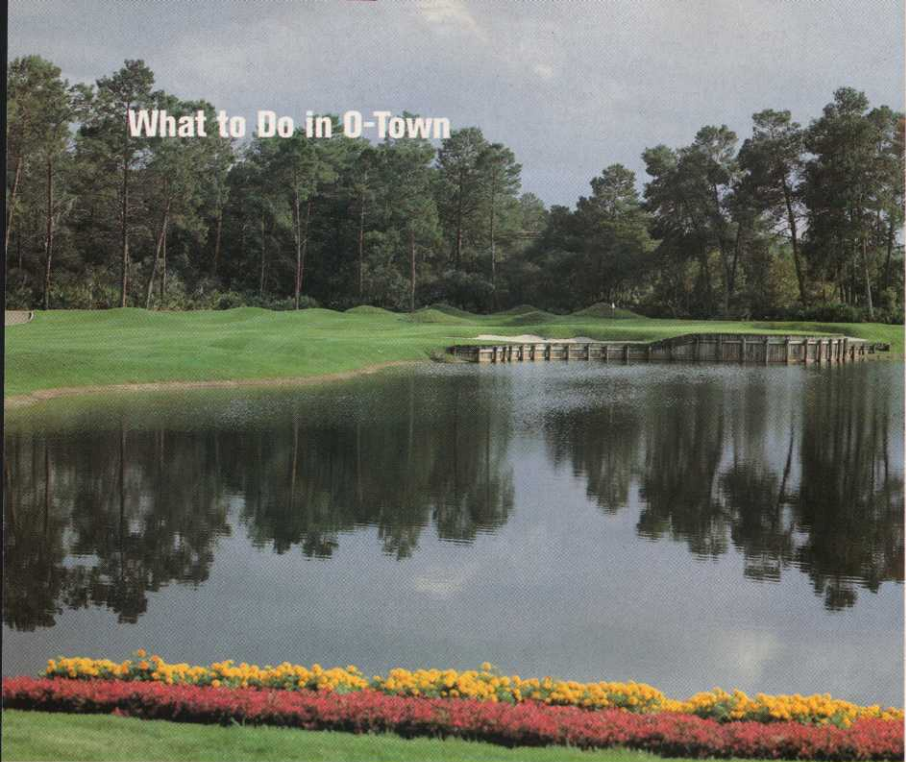
**Alan Ferguson**  
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## What to Do in O-Town



MIKE KLEMM

There are plenty of awesome courses in Orlando, including Grand Cypress Golf Club.

*Continued from page 32*

the long-standing Dr. Phillips Market Place. Some can be pricey like Chatham's, Morton's, Roy's, Christini's and Ruth Chris' Steakhouse. The Samba Room, Timpano's Chop House, Bonefish Grille, Moon Fish and Season's 52 offer a variety of cuisines at more moderate prices.

And the area also has reasonable places like TooJay's Deli and Moe's Southwest Grill with golf-themed tacos and burritos. There are many more restaurants in this area; I just haven't had time to sample all of them.

**Lake Buena Vista/Disney:** Nothing beats dining around the world at Disney's Epcot for a unique experience. Epcot fireworks are at 9 p.m. nightly. Of course, Disney has many fine restaurants including the California Grill atop the Contemporary Hotel and the Artist's Point for some northwest cuisine at the Wilderness Hotel. Fine dining can be had at Victoria's and Albert's and Narcoosee's at the Grand Floridian Hotel. You can also find a range of dining and nightclubbing at Disney's Pleasure Island and Downtown Disney with everything from jazz to the House of Blues.

The same is true for Universal Studio's City Walk. Just take the Universal Drive (right fork) at Pointe Orlando just north of the convention center all the way to the theme park. Signs will direct you to parking. I believe there's no fee after 6 p.m.

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## Orlando Offerings

### Shopping

Bass Pro Shops – North International Drive  
Belz Outlet Mall – North International Drive  
Festival Bay – North International Drive  
Florida Mall – East Sand Lake Road and U.S. 441  
Mall at Millennia – Conroy & Interstate 4  
Outlet World – South International Drive

### Sports Bars

Froggers – West of Kirkman on Conroy Road  
Hooters (3) – International Drive, Kirkman Road & Lake Buena Vista  
JB's – Kirkman Road at Conroy Road  
Murray Bros Caddyshack – North International Drive  
TGI Friday's Front Row – International Drive  
TGI Fridays – Lake Buena Vista  
Orlando Ale House – Kirkman Road & Lake Buena Vista

### Pubs

Cricketeer Arms – International Drive  
Kitty O'Sheas – Lake Buena Vista

### Attractions/Entertainment

Cape Canaveral – Titusville  
Cirque du Soleil – Lake Buena Vista  
Disney World (Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Animal Kingdom, MGM Studios)  
Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede Dinner Show – Lake Buena Vista  
Sea World  
Universal Studios

### Nearby Golf Courses

Champions Gate (International, National)  
Disney World (Osprey Ridge, Eagle Pines, Magnolia, Palm, Lake Buena Vista)  
Grand Cypress (North, South, East, New Course)  
Marriott's Hawk's Landing  
Marriott's Grande Pines  
Marriott's Grande Lakes  
MetroWest G.C.  
Reunion (Palmer, Nicklaus, Watson)  
Shingle Creek (Just east of International Drive)

For those hankering spicy wings, sandwiches and a frosty beer, there's Hooter's restaurants and two Orlando Ale Houses nearby on Kirkman Road and Lake Buena Vista and Pointe Orlando on International Drive.

If you go sightseeing in Central Florida, be advised that Interstate 4 is notorious for its traffic snarls especially during morning and afternoon rush hours and around the theme parks in the southwest area. Using International Drive southbound to Disney and other surface roads like Kirkman northbound, Central Florida Parkway, Palm Parkway, Conroy, Bee Line, state Route 528 (toll) and Green Way 417 (toll) may save some road rage. Sand Lake Road is another east-west artery, but can be busy as well at rush hour. ■

*Certified superintendent Joel Jackson retired from Disney's golf division in 1997 and is director of communications for the Florida GCSA.*

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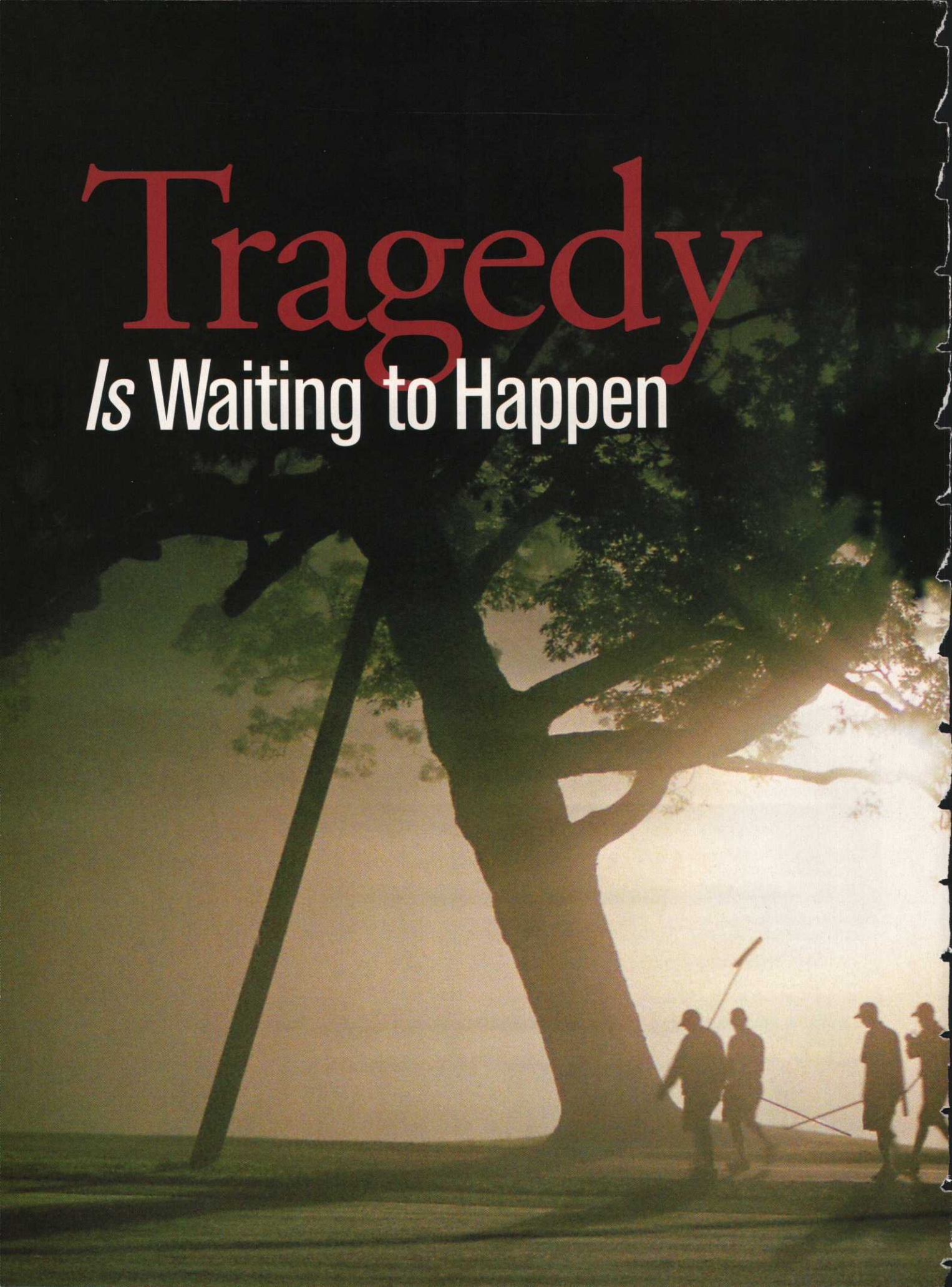
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# Tragedy

Is Waiting to Happen







## When it comes to protecting employees, the right time to implement a safety program is now. Tomorrow could be too late

BY BARBARA MULHERN

**T**he death of a 48-year-old Mexican worker, crushed by a mower at a golf club in California, is a stark reminder to all superintendents of the critical importance of safety.

Francisco Rios, an employee of the Stone Tree Golf Club in Novato, was transporting a rotary mower with a blower attachment to the other side of the 13<sup>th</sup> green when he unexpectedly hit a dip in the nonirrigated portion of the steep slope. He lost control and the mower flipped over on top of him. Golfers came to his aid, but it was too late. Five weeks later, with his wife and family members from Mexico at his side, Rios died at a nearby hospital.

"It happened so quick. I guess that's the worst part," Kevin Pryseski, the certified superintendent at the private club, says. "The equipment had rollover protection (ROPS), but he was not wearing the seat belt. It's a tragedy. In my 23 years as a superintendent, nothing like this has ever happened to me."

Rios, who died in March of 2001, was not the only golf course employee seriously injured or killed at courses around the country the past three years. Among the recent fatalities:

- A long-time Mexican worker in his 50s, who was operating a large turf sweeper on a 15- to 29-degree slope at a private course in the western part of the country. The sweeper overturned near the No. 6 fairway sand trap and the worker was crushed to death. The equipment did not have ROPS, and the manufacturer's recommendations were that it not be operated on slopes greater than 20 degrees, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) investigators say.

- A 61-year-old employee, who was operating a fertilizer

*Continued on page 38*

MARY CORCORAN



*Continued from page 37*

spreader on a steep hill at a course in the Southeast. He was found dead under the equipment, which had flipped over on top of him. The man had done maintenance work at courses for more than 20 years.

■ A 26-year-old groundskeeper, who was pinned under a small tractor after it toppled over an embankment into a shallow lake at a course in the Southwest. A co-worker who was mowing the 18<sup>th</sup> green rushed to his aid, but it was too late.

These incidents — as well as many other nonfatal worker injuries that occur at courses

around the country — are nearly always preventable, says Mike Blankenship, the safety director at the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation.

"I wouldn't think that any accidents on golf courses aren't preventable," he says, noting that the equipment used on golf courses is just as dangerous as farm equipment.

Superintendents, Blankenship adds, "ought to have weekly safety meetings with employees," stressing such issues as using eye protection and hearing protection, wearing the seat belt if the equipment they operate has ROPS, staying off steep slopes, not removing safety guards or shields, keeping away from rotating PTO (power takeoff) shafts, and not carrying passengers on mowers or other equipment.

### A Safety Checklist for Superintendents

- ✓ Hold regularly scheduled safety-training sessions in a language and manner your workers can understand.
- ✓ Document in writing attendance at all safety meetings and safety training sessions.
- ✓ Have written safety rules, and make sure they are fairly and consistently enforced. This includes making it mandatory that employees use personal protective equipment such as hard hats, safety glasses or goggles, and hearing protection when warranted.
- ✓ Train your workers to always wear their seat belts if their equipment has rollover protection and it is in the upright position.
- ✓ Train your employees not to operate equipment on steep slopes. Make sure they follow the manufacturer's recommendations on how steep is too steep.
- ✓ Be sure all equipment operators review and understand the manufacturer's operating manuals and safety instructions. Do not assume that all of your workers can read, even in their own native language.
- ✓ Make sure your workers know how to appropriately dress (long sleeves, long pants, sturdy shoes with nonslip soles) when operating equipment. If the equipment has a PTO (power takeoff unit), train them to keep their distance and not to wear jewelry or loose clothing that could get caught in the rapidly rotating PTO shaft.
- ✓ Train your employees to recognize the signs of heat stress during the hot times of the year, and show them how to protect themselves from the sun.
- ✓ Make sure your safety training includes the other "basics" such as carefully checking the mowing path for obstacles each time workers mow; operating equipment a safe distance away from lakes, ponds, and sudden drop-offs; being extra careful on wet terrain (especially slopes); never removing or bypassing safety guards or shields; and never carrying extra riders.

— Barb Mulhern

### Wake-up call

Rios, whose son still works at the course, was "on a steep slope he shouldn't have been on," Pryseski says. "It was just poor judgment." But Pryseski also blames himself for not spending as much time as he could have stressing safety to his 20 employees.

"This obviously woke us up. Our training definitely didn't adhere to California/OSHA standards. We paid \$23,000 total in fines," he says. "You think nothing like this is going to happen. Until it does, I would think most guys are pretty lax in their safety training. This doesn't ever cross your mind, and you're always in a hurry. So you go through the basics, then get the job done."

Since the incident, Pryseski has assigned a bilingual (Spanish/English) assistant as safety officer to better communicate safety to the course's all-Hispanic work force. He also significantly strengthened his employee safety program to include:

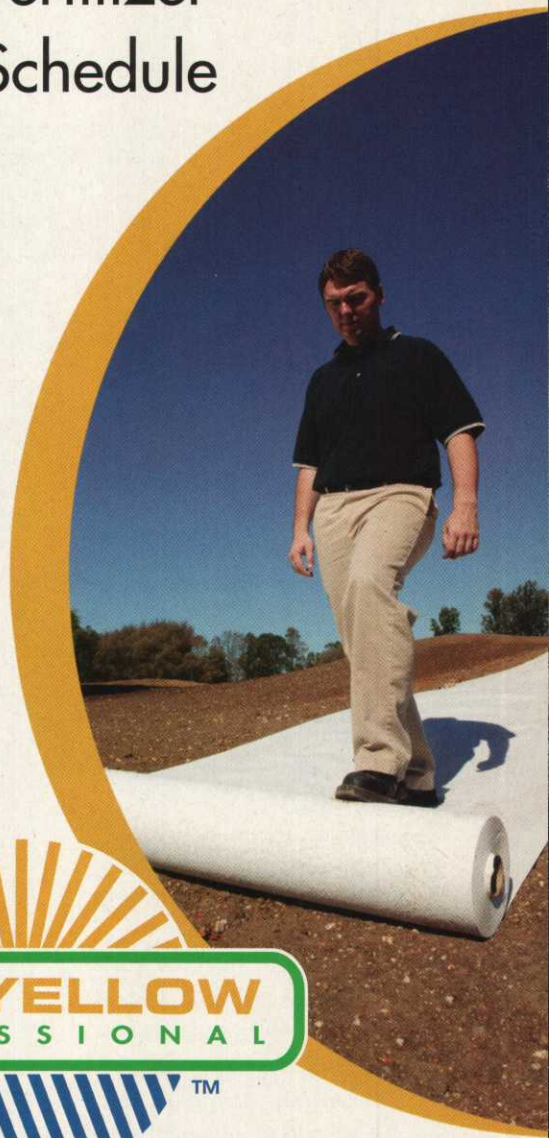
- a written safety manual that spells out the responsibilities of both management and employees and includes all other components of the course's safety program;
- a file for each employee that includes forms and sign-off sheets to document when training on various pieces of equipment or other safety issues takes place;
- additional training for each piece of equipment (using manufacturers' Spanish/English videotapes) — emphasizing that seat belts must

*Continued on page 40*



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MIKE KLEMM

Superintendents and their crews can run, but they can't hide from potential danger when it comes to tending 18 or more holes.

*Continued from page 38*

be worn if the equipment has ROPS;

- monthly safety meetings (held in Spanish) that include the viewing of safety videotapes, followed by a short true/false quiz; and

- a safety incentive program — employees' quiz scores are posted and bonuses are given for the best scores.

At Woodland Hills (Calif.) Country Club, certified superintendent Steve Sinclair has what he considers a strong safety program — but even then, employee injuries have occurred.

"The most serious one was when a worker was struck in the eye with a golf ball when going from one location to another on a utility vehicle. He lost most of his eyesight in one eye," he says.

In another incident, an employee was crossing the street with a walk-behind aerifier. "We have three street crossings, and at every one we have a stop sign I made up for workers that warns them of traffic," Sinclair says. In this particular case, the worker did stop and waited before crossing the street. A Jeep appeared to be stopped but suddenly started moving. The worker was struck and wound up with a chipped bone in his ankle.

"One thing that's important on a golf course is to make sure the workers

understand the game of golf," Sinclair says. "We're on a 97-acre property with 18 holes and there is no place to hide sometimes, so we really need to emphasize that here. No matter where you are on the property, you need to be aware of where they're (the golfers) hitting and in which direction they're trying to hit."

Employee safety training at Woodland Hills includes weekly safety meetings every Friday afternoon. "We cover everything from safe lifting procedures to anything we see on the golf course when someone notices something wrong," Sinclair says. "We combine these with a safety lesson, and have workers sign off on both."

"We also go through a worksheet that lists all of the safety concerns in the (maintenance) yard and on the golf course. We give them safety glasses, hard hats, earplugs and show them where everything else is that they'll need. If the person doesn't speak English, we'll bring in a translator," he says.

Providing safety equipment is also a key part of the safety program at the Fountaingrove Golf & Athletic Club in Santa Rosa, Calif., according to superintendent and safety coordinator Andrew Trinkino.

"I have a separate line item in my budget for safety equipment and safety supplies. We are running about \$8,000 per year on that," he says. "I always say that one-eyed greenskeepers don't get very far in the profession."

Trinkino, who has 18 employees, says his course has held monthly safety meetings since the late '90s. "We've purchased the Superintendent's Video Workshop (see accompanying *Safety Resources* article) and have had good participation. We've had no turnover in about three years, so we can see these guys progress."

Trinkino, who has received some good safety ideas from colleagues, also has a sign-off sheet to document attendance at each safety session. In addition, a posted 3 by 4-foot sheet includes all employee names and a spot to fill in the date and subject of safety sessions.

*Continued on page 43*

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