



# HOW EPCRA WORKS IN WISCONSIN

By Michael Semler

*Author's Note: The following information, pulled together by GCSAA headquarters staff, is extremely useful to all WGCSA members and applies to every Wisconsin golf course. You may want to keep this information for future reference. We all must comply with the requirements covered in this report.*

*Remember, this is not legal advice. As always, consult with your own attorney for specific answers to legal questions you have.*

As a response to growing concerns about the effects of chemical releases on communities, the U.S. Congress enacted the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) in 1986. The act supports state and local emergency planning efforts and provides citizens and local governments with information concerning potential chemical hazards present in their communities by requiring reports from businesses — including golf courses — that deal with hazardous chemicals.

In 1987, Wisconsin enacted a community right-to-know law that created the state emergency response commission and an emergency planning grant program and established a fee

collection system for document submissions. The law also includes penalty provisions.

Local emergency planning committees may apply for grants to develop an emergency response plan required under federal law. Local committees may be eligible for up to \$6,000 in reimbursement fees for the purchase of computers and emergency response equipment.

The law is administered by the state Emergency Planning and Reporting Administration and covers all employers. However, facilities with fewer than 10 full-time employees are exempt from the document submission fees.

The document submission fee schedule includes:

- \*\$800 emergency planning and notification fee, due at time of initial notification

- \*\$100 inventory form fee for 1-100 chemicals listed

- \*\$150 inventory form fee for 101-500 chemicals listed

- \*\$300 inventory form fee for more than 500 chemicals listed.

Failure to submit material safety data sheets (MSDSs) may result in a \$10,000 fine. Failure to submit required

emergency planning and hazardous chemical forms may result in a penalty of up to \$25,000. Failure to report multiple releases of hazardous substances may result in a fine of up to \$75,000.

A \$20,000 penalty may be assessed for knowingly releasing protected trade secret information.

Additionally, violators may be imprisoned for up to two years for hazardous release violations and up to one year for trade secret violations.

## Community Right-To-Know Contacts

For emergency release notification, call 608/266-3232.

For general information, emergency planning notification and document submissions, call the Division of Emergency Government at 608/266-3232.

Submit follow-up emergency release notification, MSDSs and chemical inventories to Wisconsin Division of Emergency Management, 4802 Sheboygan Ave., P.O. Box 7865, Madison, WI 53707.

Submit annual toxic chemical release forms to Department of Natural Resources, Office of Technical Services, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

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## WGCSA TO SPONSOR "SAFE PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT" SEMINAR

The directors and officers of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association have decided to host what may well be one of the most timely GCSAA seminars offered.

On March 21, 1991, Dr. Burt Bohmont, a faculty member at Colorado State University, will present a one-day seminar entitled "Safe Pesticide Management."

This seminar promises to help Wisconsin golf course superintendents un-

derstand the basics of safe use and application of pesticides.

Dr. Bohmont will review regulations and safety practices for pesticide applicators. He will cover FIFRA requirements, right-to-know laws, environmental considerations and groundwater concerns.

The seminar will be held at the Holiday Inn on Highway 100 in Milwaukee. This facility has been the site of previous seminars.

The cost will be \$85. This is an excellent educational opportunity. It gives us all a chance to experience first-hand clarification of a mountain of rules, regulations and laws that greatly influence how we conduct our business. Dr. Bohmont should be lecturing to a full house.

Details on registration will be forthcoming.