

REPORT ON OSHA by Tom Hopf

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References are taken from The Federal Register, Volume 37, No. 202, Section 1910, which are general standards and from Volume 37, No. 243, Section 1926, which are construction standards. Also information has been received from the State Labor Department.

As you probably already know, the State of Minnesota is enforcing OSHA through the State Department of Labor and Industry. As of August 1, 1974 enforcement also covers governmental units: local, State, and Federal and includes municipal golf courses.

Minnesota has adopted the standards as printed in the Federal Register, Sections 1910 and 1926, along with a few other additions covered in the booklet "A Short Guide to the Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Law" prepared by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

The seven points covered are:

1. An employee who refuses entry by an investigator is subject to a \$1,000 fine.
2. Employees can participate in an opening conference or discussion held during an inspection.
3. The employee shall be paid for his time while participating in an inspection.
4. Employers will pay the cost of all protective equipment furnished to employees that are required by the standards.
5. An inspector can issue a red tag effective for 72 hours to shut down any machine or operation if a serious hazard exists.
6. The employer has the right to protect trade secrets.
7. The law covers public as well as private employers.

The Labor Department recommends that each employer or place of employment form a safety committee to monitor safety conditions and make recommendations to management regarding safety hazards and procedures. The committee is to be made up of working employees, elected by employees, and can be headed by one supervisor.

Some of the common areas for consideration are:

1. Fire protection. Refer to 1926, Sections 150 & 151 or 1910, Sections 157 through 165.
2. Personal protective equipment. Refer to 1910, Sections 132 through 140 and 1926, Sections 100 through 107.
3. Walking and working surfaces. Refer to 1910, Sections 21 through 30 and 1926, Sections 450, 500, & 501.
4. Hand and power tools. Refer to 1926, Sections 300 through 305 and 1910, Sections 241 through 244.
5. Machinery and machine guarding. Refer to 1910, Sections 211 through 219.
6. Flammable liquids and LP gas. Refer to 1926, Sections 152 & 153 and 1910, Sections 101 through 111.
7. Welding, cutting and brazing. Refer to 1910, Section 252 and 1926, Sections 350 to 354.
8. Housekeeping. Refer to 1926, Section 25.
9. First aid and medical. Refer to 1926, Sections 20, 21, 22, 23 and 1910.151.

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OSHA (cont'd from page7)

These are the areas where most of the problems are found on golf courses. I strongly recommend every supervisor to obtain copies of these standards as it is almost impossible to get by without them.

Information can be obtained from:

Area Director
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
U. S. Department of Labor
110 South 4th Street, Room 437
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401
Phone: 725-2571

or from

Department of Labor and Industry
Fifth Floor, Space Center Building
444 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Questions on standards can be answered by Mr. Ivan Russell or Mr. Al Hartman phone 296-2116 at the St. Paul office. Copies of the Minnesota OSHA, Volume I: Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1973 and Minnesota Compliance Manual are available from the State Documents, Room 140 Centennial Building, 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155. Cost is \$5.20 per copy.

Some of the common hazards found in your areas are:

1. Improper display of fire extinguishers, also extinguishers that haven't been checked at least once a year.
2. Air pressure hoses used for cleaning purposes without the 30 PSI regulated nozzle.
3. Non use of personal protective equipment.
4. Improper machinery belt, chain and grinder wheel guarding.
5. Tool rest more than 1/8 inch away from face of grinding wheel on bench grinder.
6. Improper battery charging and storage areas.
7. Improper storage and handling of gasoline and other flammable materials.
8. Housekeeping.
9. Ungrounded electrical outlets and faulty cords and equipment.
10. Holes in floors and walkways that are unprotected.
11. Welding without proper ventilation and arc protection (welding screen). Welding near flammable materials.
12. Improper roll over protection on equipment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY TORO

The Toro Company and Minnesota Toro Inc. have extended their warranty coverage on their institutional turf products to one full year. This is the longest and most comprehensive coverage in the industry, according to Toro's Service Manager. The new policy covers the cost of both parts and labor for repair and replacement of defective material. The coverage is extended from 90 days to one year and implements a new phase in Toro's wide-range program to assure after-sales satisfaction to the owners of Toro turf equipment.