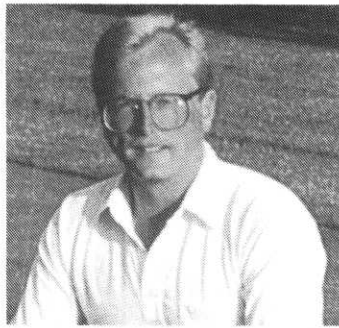


It Is The Law!



John K. MacKenzie, Jr.
North Oaks

It is the law! We, as responsible golf course superintendents, must educate our green staff and all new employees about the Minnesota Right-to-Know law. However, sometimes it is just not convenient to spend time training new personnel about the hazards associated with chemical use on the golf course.

At North Oaks Golf Course, we have composed a program which instructs new and existing employees about the Right-to-Know law, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), golf course etiquette and maintenance practices and policies. The employee is then given a very comprehensive test, detailing important ideas. Although time consuming at first, all of this information is self taught, eliminating the need and expense of one to one training.

The program starts during the off season with the compilation of club policies and practices and MSDS forms for chemicals in the inventory and those which will be used in the future. An explanation of the Right-to-Know law is also added. Other useful information such as a map of the course, the maintenance building floor plan and the location of fire extinguishers is obtained. Using a copy machine, we mass produce enough booklets so each of the crew members has his or her own issue, as well as several extra. We do not alphabetize the MSDS forms at this time.

The next process is actually fun, the drafting of an exam which thoroughly tests the employees' knowledge of the material presented. Questions like, What is the flashpoint of banner? or What is the LD50 of Aliete or What is the emergency response phone number for Phenyl Murcurac Acetate? Because this is an open book format, the employee is forced to learn how to use the MSDS sheets and the policy booklet.

When we distribute the package of information, the new or existing crew member is required to read the material, alphabetize the MSDS forms, write and index for the MSDS forms and finally take the written exam and pass with a score of no less than 100%. He or she then signs the test and turns it in to be kept on file for the next five years as proof that they have completed a comprehensive Right-to-Know training program. We also distribute booklets to community groups and emergency response teams, thus meeting the requirements of the Community Right-to-Know law.

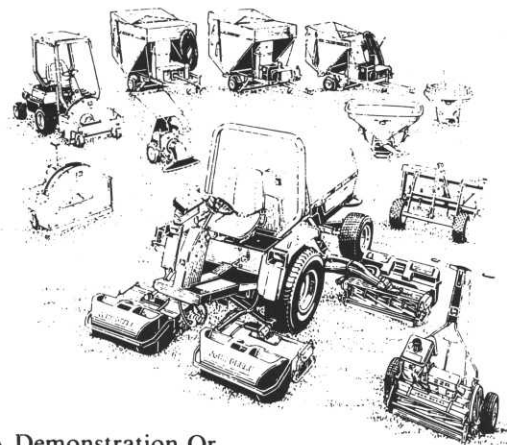
The upcoming season will be the second year we have provided the self-taught Right-to-Know program. We change the test annually and any additional MSDS forms are provided when we expand our chemical arsenal. The self education format reduces the expense of one on one education. Also, by training our staff we have decreased our exposure to accidents and worker compensation suits. And finally, by forcing our crew members to read, use and acknowledge their understanding of the information provided, our club has complied with the law.

—John K. MacKenzie Jr., CGCS

Remaining 1990 MGCSA Meeting Sites

Date	Site	Event
May 15	Oak Glen Country Club	
June 11	Stone Brooke Golf Club	
July 9	Northfield Golf Club	
August 13	Hazeltine National Golf Club	MGCSA Championship
Sept. 24	Dellwood Hills Golf Club	Stodola Scramble
October 8	Baker Park Golf Club	

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