

# How EPCRA Works In Minnesota

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.

Minnesota's own 1986 Hazardous Substance Exposure Act provides for on-site inspections and public disclosure of workplace data if public health and safety are at risk. Another state law passed in 1986, the Community Emergency Response Hazardous Substances Protection Act, requires employers to submit to local fire departments a hazardous substance information report and any requested update information. Community right-to-know legislation enacted in 1989 establishes the state emergency response commission, codified federal EPCRA requirements into state law and requires public sector facilities to report hazardous substance information.

**The State Department of Health** administers the Hazardous Substance Exposure Act, while the state Department of Public Safety administers the Community Emergency Response Hazardous Substances Protection Act and the Community Right-To-Know Act.

## **The laws apply to all Minnesota golf course operations.**

Local fire departments are responsible for distributing hazardous substance report forms to employers and then maintaining files of the completed forms. The form, developed by the state Department of Public Safety, must contain the following information:

- Range of maximum combined quantities of all hazardous substances contained in each designated hazard category present in the workplace
- Street address and any other special workplace identifier
- Employer's name, address and telephone number
- Telephone numbers of employer emergency contact representatives who can be reached at all times.

If requested, golf facilities must provide the fire department with copies of material safety data sheets (MSDSs) and clarification of any information provided on the hazardous substance notification form within 30 days.

Upon request, local fire departments will provide MSDS and hazardous substance notification form information to emergency response personnel.

**The State Emergency Response Commission** is authorized to assess fees to recover costs for data management, including a \$10 fee per MSDS when a facility submits MSDs instead of the required list of hazardous chemicals, as well as other filing fees and late fees.

The Minnesota Department of Health may conduct on-site inspections to investigate the actual, suspected or potential release of a hazardous substance in order to determine community exposure and risk.

Information gathered during on-site inspections may be disclosed to individuals or the community if:

- Evidence confirms that the individual or group requesting the information may have suffered or is likely to suffer illness or injury from exposure to a substance
- Evidence of a community health risk exists and the Minnesota Department of Health seeks to have the employer cease an activity that results in the release of a hazardous substance
- The information is required by physicians to diagnose, treat or prevent illness or injury.

**A civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000** may be assessed for each violation of Minnesota's Community Emergency Response Hazardous Substances Protection Act.

The state emergency response commission may take legal action in state district court to punish EPCRA violations. A fine of up to \$25,000 may be assessed for violations of EPCRA emergency release notification requirements. Repeat violators may be assessed a fine of up to \$50,000.

## **Community Right-To-Know Contacts**

For emergency release notification, call

800/422-0798 from outside the Minneapolis/St. Paul area or 612/649-5451 from within the metropolitan area.

For general information, call the Emergency Response Commission at 612/643-3000. For emergency planning notification and document submissions, call the commission at 612/296-0488.

Submit follow-up emergency release notification, MSDSs, chemical inventories and annual toxic chemical release forms to State Emergency Response Commission, 290 Bigelow Building, 450 N. Syndicate St., St. Paul, MN 55104.



## **Chester Mendenhall Honored by USGA**

Chester Mendenhall, who helped pioneer the role of the modern superintendent during the post-World War II golf boom, has been named the recipient of the 1990 Green Section Award of the United States Golf Association.

The announcement was made by F. Morgan Taylor Jr., chairman of the USGA Green Section Award Committee.

The award has been presented by the USGA annually since 1961 in recognition of distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass. Mendenhall was honored at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Show, in Orlando, Fla.

As golf expanded in the 1950s and 1960s, Mendenhall led the way to make sure golf course superintendents kept pace. He actively participated in the growth and development of new machinery, the use of new chemicals, and the improving management techniques of those vital years.

A charter member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, he was elected in 1948 as the organization's 12th president. In 1968 he received the Distinguished Service Award from the GCSAA.