

It's Wise to Be Prepared for Any Type of Emergency

Are you ready in case of an emergency at your club? Many of you have told me you have plans for many different types of accidents.

Just the other day, one of my employees fell while getting out of the truck (just an accident), and then not more than a few hours later a paint stripper spilled on one of the guy's arms. For both of these accidents, we were ready to react.

Many times common sense will cover the situation. But you should have at your fingertips information on all your employees. They may have this information at the clubhouse, but you need this information, too. You need to know the employee's home phone number; a spouse's or relatives' numbers can be important.

Do they have allergies that you should be aware of in case of some special treatment? The person's personal doctor's name could be very helpful. This type of information is important and can save valuable minutes that could very well count.

Now is the time for you to update your records. Take

GCSAA Offers New Environmental Video

Superintendents and other members of the golf industry who have been frustrated by negative reports about golf courses now have a new tool to educate others about the many benefits of golf courses.

Links With Nature: Golf Courses and the Environment documents the positive ecological impacts of courses. The high-quality, 14-minute video was produced by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) to help the golf industry respond to "misconceptions about golf courses and how they're managed," according to John M. Schilling, GCSAA executive director.

"The video is designed to show the public how a well-managed golf course can be a tremendous ecological asset for the community," Schilling said.

Links With Nature focuses on four key aspects of the golf course ecosystem, highlighting benefits that are often overlooked and citing independent research findings that allay public concerns. The video discusses how golf courses can provide direct benefits for soil, water, air and wildlife. A final segment outlines the role that today's golf course superintendent plays in managing the property responsibly.

Copies of GCSAA's new *Greentips* fact sheet series can also be ordered with the tape. Each *Greentips* provides a short summary of educational and scientific information on a specific area of environmental interest. There are *Greentips* on 10 different topics ranging from water conservation to clippings disposal.

The videotape is \$20 for GCSAA members and \$30 for non-members (price includes shipping and handling; U.S. funds only). To order *Links*, or for more information, call the GCSAA membership department at 913/832-4480.

the time and review your system and do something about it. Go over this plan with your key personnel. Make sure they have access to this information. A back-up plan can be helpful, too.

Many of us are fortunate to have many very conscientious workers that are careful in their work habits.

So there is no need looking for problems. Just be prepared!!

—Mike Baker, *The Bull Sheet*

Lightning—Thunderstorms Safety Rules for Golfers

The recent tragic death caused by lightning on June 13 during the U.S. Open at Hazeltine National in Chaska emphasizes the importance of knowing what to do during a thunderstorm.

WHEN A THUNDERSTORM IS APPROACHING

DON'T play the next shot! Get off the course IMMEDIATELY.

DON'T seek shelter under an isolated, unprotected area.

DON'T hold on to metal-shafted clubs.

DON'T use an umbrella with a metal shaft.

DON'T be naive and play the odds and think you will never be affected by lightning on a golf course.

DO get off the course AT ONCE.

DO seek refuge in a large building or a rain shelter or other small building equipped with approved lightning protection or under a tree equipped with a certified lightning protection system.

DO get off high terrain. You are safer in a ditch, gully or depressed area.

If you feel your hair rising, immediately drop to your knees. Do not lay on the ground.

REMEMBER

You don't have to be hit by a direct stroke of lightning to be shocked, injured or killed. There is a positive charge of electricity in the ground equal to the negative charge in the thunderhead, and lightning can enter your body from the ground up, causing shock, injury or death, especially when wearing metal spikes or holding a metal-shafted club.

FURTHERMORE

If you have a competition going on at your course, have a well-developed emergency plan and distribute it to the players and others before play begins.