

"ENVIROMATION"

This monthly addition to *Hole Notes* will cover issues, commentary, information and research results pertaining to environmental concerns on the local, state and national level.

The preliminary results were released in Dallas from the GCSAA commissioned occupational health study. Dr. Burton Kross, associate director of the University of Iowa Institute of Agricultural Medicine and Occupational Health, was the lead researcher. "The study was a statistical analysis of death certificates among 618 former GCSAA members who died between 1970 and 1992." A few of the key points to this study is that statistical mortality research doesn't address what caused the deaths. "NO CAUSE AND EFFECT CAN OR SHOULD BE DRAWN FROM THE STUDY" and also that the researchers specifically stated that "GOLFERS ARE AT NO RISK". "The Iowa researchers found that the group had a higher rate of mortality from lung cancer than the general population. They also found higher than average mortality for a number of other cancers including brain, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and prostate." GCSAA will continue to support continued research into improving its members safety and health in the workplace.

While these preliminary results DO NOT show a direct cause and effect to any specific part of our workplace, it only reinforces continued awareness and training into worker safety. Remember - Risk = Hazards/Safeguards. Dr. Kross' studies also showed that dermal contact was the most prevalent way workers came in direct contact to chemicals. Proper clothing and training are especially important when grounds staff are mixing chemicals. When deciding on which chemicals you will be using this season, make sure that how the product is packaged and/or formulated ("safety friendly and environmentally friendly") plays a major role in your choice. Consider the closed systems products such as the water soluble packets, or dry flowables, and turf paks. Also based on Dr. Kross' initial findings, it may be prudent to ban smoking in your workplace, if you haven't done so already.

On the national front, EPA has made a commitment to reduce pesticide use and is determining uniform definitions for IPM, risk assessment and parameters for the new buzzword "benefit assessment". Golf courses must reevaluate their turf management programs to help achieve reduced pesticide use and rely more heavily on other aspects of IPM. Some of these other components would be increased cultural controls (aerification), the use of disease and drought resistant cultivars and more efficient irrigation management.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) made many site inspections this past year including many golf courses. Golf courses did very well on these inspections with some notable exceptions. Ironically the most recurrent non-compliance areas are probably the easiest to remedy. Three of them were: DO NOT Store Chemicals on the Floor, No Backflow Prevention Devices on Tank Fills and there

should NOT BE any Floor Drains Near Chemical Storage Areas.

The GCSAA (Gets Completely Staggering After Awhile) Trade Show in Dallas is still growing in size and number of products. "Enviro" and "Eco" are also becoming more and more common as part of product and company names. Some of the products I saw were turf injectors, more organic fertilizers and blends thereof, low rate fungicides, mobile inflatable tank fill pads, wash water recycling systems, environmental site assessments and weather stations. As with any other product after the marketing names have been removed, is it a viable product or service for your situation and specifications? Also, remember with such things as chemical storage buildings, aboveground vaults and other systems, make sure they meet your specific federal, state and local regulations.

By the time this *Hole Notes* arrives, you should have filled out and sent in your annual DNR Irrigation Permit License renewal, the renewal form for Licensed Pesticides Applicators through the MDA, and hopefully the "Waste Pesticide Disposal Program" form to register the old and/or unused products that you are going to dispose of by bringing it to a MDA pick-up site this spring. If you have any

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Enviromation

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questions concerning this program, please give me a call.

NOTICE: The annual spring MDA recertification for licensed pesticide applicators workshop will be held in conjunction with the MGCSA Annual Conference in December.

In closing, our industry must continue to support quality and quantifiable research at all levels to help assess occupational health and safety awareness, to reinforce golf courses as environmental assets, and to continue to find better alternatives to golf course maintenance and manage-

ment through environmental stewardship. In coining an EPA term, we must continue to make "Benefit Assessments" on our golf courses for the good of our employees, golfers and the game of golf.

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