

## Words of Wisdom

In my past fifteen years of grounds management I can honestly and thankfully say I've seen very few incidents that have jeopardized the safety of myself, staff and other co-workers. I credit that to proper instruction of safety operation and procedures, and always instilling the need for sound judgment, and common sense, while out performing the many tasks we so faithfully do.

At first the R.O.P.S., seat belt and hard hat issues left many of us up in arms due to the expense involved and their cumbersome nature. It left some of us believing that they were unnecessary.

Unnecessary no longer exists in my vocabulary. In mid-May one of my most experienced operators believed his quest was to climb the highest mountain on the course, one not normally maintained by our 322. He believed that if he could conquer what we know as *Mr. Hill* that he would be thought of as the bravest and fittest of all. And to that end he used poor judgment. Fortunately, he used good judgment when it came to the use of his seat belt. In the resulting rollover, his seatbelt confined him to the cockpit, thus allowing the rollover bar to do its job in stopping the unit from doing multiple flips to the bottom of the slope.

As I looked up the slope, my first reaction was "CJ, are you okay? Were you wearing a seatbelt?" After getting yes to both questions, I looked at the 322 hanging on the edge. I noticed the roll bar imbedded into the hard-packed clay at least 12 inches. This is where I realized the great momentum of the unit as it rolled. If it had not been installed with R.O.P.S., the operator would most certainly have been crushed to death. If not for the seatbelt, he could just surely be thrown to the bottom of the slope causing extensive injury or death. After reassuring myself that CJ was okay, the next step was to see how mangled the 322 was. I was sure that thousands of dollars of damage had occurred. But once again the roll bar gets credit for doing its job. It saved a valuable piece of equipment. The 322 didn't experience one scratch or bend and after changing the fluids, the unit was back in operation that same day.

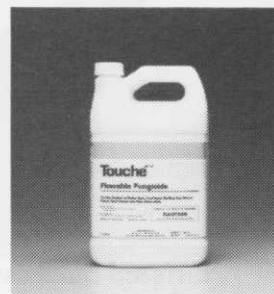
In conclusion, the message I am trying to convey to you — the readers of *Hole Notes* — is that seatbelts, hard hats and roll bars do have their place in our facilities. Not only do they protect the valuable tools that allow us to perform our jobs, but most importantly they can save lives.

— Greg Iden  
Course Superintendent  
Shoreland Country Club

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