

# Common Environmental Violations For Minnesota Golf Courses

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In past *Hole Notes* articles, the responsibility of golf course superintendents to remain abreast of environmental regulations related to underground storage tanks (USTs) was discussed. The most critical UST issue covered previously was the impending December 22, 1998 deadline for the installation of proper spill, overfill and corrosion protection on UST systems.

However, golf course owners and superintendents are increasingly faced with more environmental and health and safety issues than just those surrounding USTs. The fact is, some improper practices in other day-to-day operations continue to be a constant challenge for golf course owners and superintendents. Many of these practices are regulated and permitted under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Regional Water Management Districts, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Department of Agriculture, as well as the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Recently, state and federal agencies have stated that new regulatory performance standards will soon be instituted. As a result, environmental practices at Minnesota golf courses will likely be regulated with greater scrutiny by those agencies. The following is a list of common environmental, health and safety issues which may apply to your golf course.

## Regulated Environmental Issues

- Storage, placarding and/or labeling of chemicals.
- Segregation of pesticide application equipment and general equipment wash areas.
  - Disposal of used lead cell batteries, chemical containers, spent solvents and other wastes.
  - Chemical application and segregation from sensitive area exclusion zones such as surface water bodies.
  - Use of secondary containment structures for above-ground storage tanks containing fuel oil or liquid chemicals.
- Management and disposal of grass clippings.

## Regulated Health and Safety Issues


- Providing and/or maintaining proper personal protective equipment for chemical exposure and noise hazards.
  - Adhering to pesticide applicator license requirements.
  - Maintaining safe work areas including the use of safety guards and/or shields on applicable tools and equipment.

## Regulated Administrative Issue

- Maintaining proper records.

These issues are regulated by various federal, state and local agencies, occasionally creating competing and/or overlapping standards. However, the prudent golf course owner/superintendent stays on top of these issues and regulations to avoid violations and resultant fines and penalties.

The most effective way to play the "environmental fairway" is to remain well informed of the current regulations. These issues listed above will be expanded upon in subsequent *Hole Notes* to help your golf course remain on "Par" this coming golf season.



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