

Do You Have An Incidence Response Plan?

By **BOB DISTEL**

Superintendent, Wayzata Country Club

In the event of a pesticide and/or fertilizer release incident, preparedness will be your best defense to protect individuals and the environment.

With the onset of winter and consequently the easing of our heavy schedules, it may be a good time to tune up your existing **Incidence Response Plan**, or create one. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture recommends that at a minimum, you revise and update your plan annually, for in the event of an incident, quick and decisive action is a must.

Listed below is a suggested format for an Incidence Response Plan from the MDA. Remember that you may also access more detailed information in your **MGCSA Environmental Guide**.

Suggested Format For An Incidence Response Plan

1) Emergency response contact list.

- a. Facility personnel
- b. Other facilities familiar with site
- c. Emergency assistance
- d. Major chemical company representatives

2) Product labels.

A complete copy for each pesticide and fertilizer product stored at the facility.

3) Product material safety data sheets (MSDS)

A complete copy for each pesticide and fertilizer product stored at the facility.

4) First aid information

5) Prefire planning

Invite local fire department to inspect facility annually. Familiarize them with the facility and its storage areas as well as drainage at and adjacent to the facility; brief them on precautions and tactics for fighting agricultural chemical fires, and provide them with names and numbers of persons to be contacted in case of fire.

6) Maps

- a. Map of facility that includes:

- (1) Buildings;
- (2) Pesticide/fertilizer storage areas;
- (3) Mixing, loading and rinsate recycling areas;
- (4) Vehicle parking and washing areas;
- (5) Sanitary sewer inlets, storm sewer inlets and outlets, tile inlets and outlets; and
- (6) Wells.

For wells within 150 feet of any existing or proposed loading (rinse pad) and secondary containment (diked) areas, include the year installed and depth.

- b. Facility map key and scale.
- c. Map of surrounding area.
- d. Surrounding area map key.

7) Use and handling procedures.

Procedures should thoroughly detail the facility's pesticide/fertilizer handling practices and rinsate use, including container rinsing and disposal methods and equipment (e.g. type of backflow prevention device being used).

8) Emergency equipment and supplies for pesticide and fertilizer incidents.

- a. Identify available, working personal protective equipment and supplies. Specify location(s) at facility where these materials are stored.

- b. Identify available, working emergency equipment and supplies. Specify location(s) at facility where these materials are stored.

- c. List of emergency contractors.

(Continued on Page 13)

**John Wiley
Larry Vetter
Dale Parske
Don Belkengren
Mike Welfring
Wolf Weber
Peter Fanjul
Tom McCann
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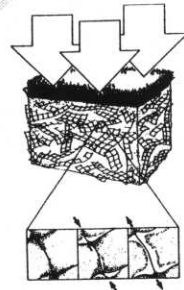
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RECLASSIFICATIONS

Michael Brower Hillcrest Country Club	B to A
David W. Lundeen Oakdale & Mendota Heights Par 3s	B to A
Michael D. Newman Forest Hills Golf Club	C to B
Scott Mattson Stone Creek Golf Club	D to B
Jeff Whitehurst Twin City Hydro Seeding	Student to Affiliate

Steve Shumansky, MGCSA Membership Chairman

Incidence Response Plan—

(Continued from Page 11)

9) Release procedures.

Thoroughly describe the facility's pesticide and/or fertilizer release response procedures and practices, including use and/or disposal of spilled materials.

10) Anhydrous Ammonia (NH₃) procedures.

Identify NH₃ equipment and specify location of this equipment at the facility.

11) Anhydrous Ammonia (NH₃) equipment.

Thoroughly describe procedures and practices for handling NH₃ and dealing with releases.

12) Employee release response training.

Document employee name and date they completed training.

13) Date last revised/updated.

The incidence response plan must be kept current. It should reflect any changes in storage, handling or disposal practices and procedures. This is especially important when there are frequent changes in personnel, product being stored and/or site safeguards. The MDA recommends that, at a minimum, you review and update your plan annually.

As stewards of the environment, we as members of the MGCSA work very hard to make sure that an incident does not happen. Preparedness and organization for the ever-looming potential of an accident is one thing, but our greatest strengths and efforts should be focused on prevention of a spill incident. To continue strong, judicial prudence with our pesticides will help us all in the future.

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North Star Turf, Turf Supply Join Forces

North Star Turf, Inc., St. Paul, and Turf Supply Company, Eagan, have announced a strategic marketing alliance effective January 1, 1998.

This alliance does not involve a change of ownership for either company. However, it does combine the operations associated with all critical functions of the business including the integration of sales staffs, delivery systems and inventory control including product purchasing, warehousing and invoicing.

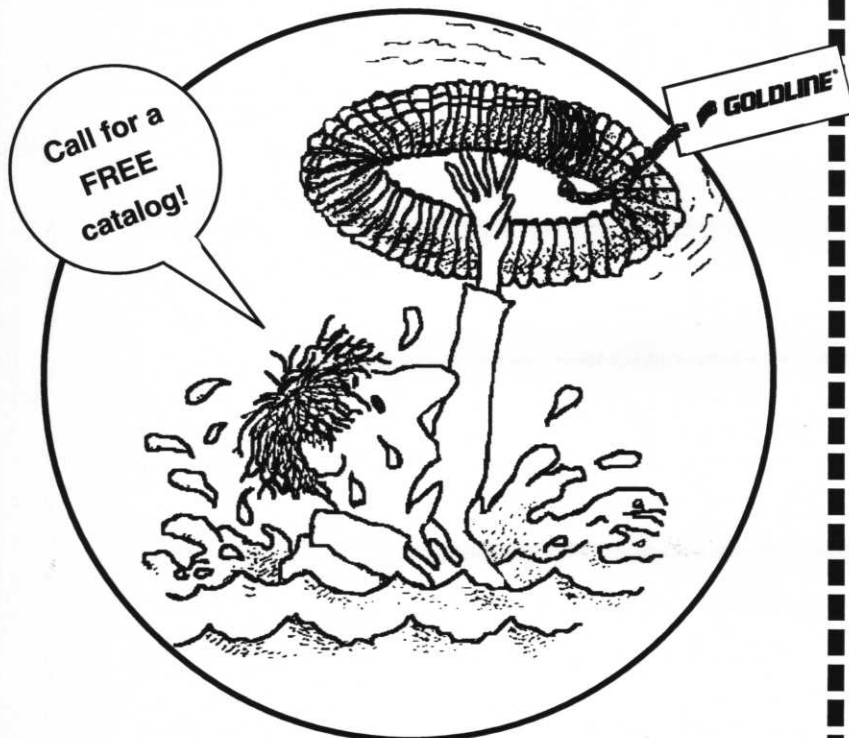
"Turf Supply and North Star have been friendly competitors for many years and it seemed logical to combine our strengths to help better serve our collective customer base," said Dan Miller, president of NST. Both companies will continue to represent their existing products while benefiting from the other company's resources in terms of product and market knowledge. Both companies will share product inventory and provide better customer service due in part to their ability to reach more customers more often with more sales and service personnel.

The two companies fit well together with respect to complementary product lines and territory coverage.

"We feel we have some of the best sales personnel in the market representing equipment, golf accessories, turf chemicals, seed and fertilizer. Combining sales forces has created a new chemistry among our people that should pay dividends to our customers," said John Wiley, vice-president of Turf Supply Co.

As the blending of operations progresses turf managers throughout Minnesota, western Wisconsin and both Dakotas can expect to see new product introductions and joint marketing activities featuring products offered by both companies. Further announcements relative to the alliance, including staff reorganization, will be released as they develop.

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Don't Miss the "Tee Time" For Your Underground Storage Tank

By **BILL KEEGAN** and **DAVE BROWN**
SECOR International Incorporated

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Underground Storage Tank (UST) "Tee Time" is set for December 22, 1998. Is this "tee time" scheduled for your golf course?

Does your golf course have a UST? Does your tank contain a petroleum product such as fuel oil or used oil? Is the tank larger than 110 gallons? If you answer "yes" to all these questions, the EPA "tee time" must be on your schedule!

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the EPA set technical standards for owners and operators of USTs. These federal regulations included deadlines for implementation of UST release detection equipment by the early 1990s. Further, they set the December 22, 1998 deadline for the installation of basic tank and dispensing line upgrades. "Upgrades" are defined as:

- Spill Protection (catchment basins to contain spills)
- Overfill Protection (shutoff devices or overfill alarms)
- Corrosion Protection (the application of noncorrodible material to the tank of numerous other methods)

Compliance in all three aspects of upgrading are required by December, 1998.

According to statistics, only 26% of tanks are in compliance with the 1998 regulations nationwide. In 1995 the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) estimated that about 17,000 tanks in Minnesota were in need of upgrading or removal to meet the EPA regulations. A large percentage of those tanks will require attention within the next year to meet the 1998 compliance standards. This rush to comply with this deadline will likely keep registered tank contractors and consultants in Minnesota booked solid throughout the construction season. By waiting until next summer to address UST issues, you may have difficulty finding an available tank contractor in time to comply with EPA regulations. Therefore, it is imperative to schedule your UST removal or upgrade as soon as possible.

Tank owner/operators failing to meet the EPA UST deadline will be sent a Notice of Noncompliance (NON) encouraging them to comply with the existing regulations. A 90-day grace period will likely be granted for compliance before fines will be assessed. The fines for noncompliance may range from \$1 to \$10,000 and will be assessed by the MPCA on a case-by-case basis. In addition to these fines,

you could receive deductions of 10% or more on your Petrofund reimbursement should you have a future petroleum release from your UST system. (The Petrofund is a user-funded and state-operated environmental trust fund that reimburses costs for the investigation and remediation of impacted soil and/or groundwater at a rate of \$0.90 per \$1.00 spent.) In effect, the Petrofund is your environmental insurance policy, and compliance with UST regulations in 1998 establishes your full eligibility for that insurance.

To avoid fines and to maximize your Petrofund reimbursement, it is essential to be well aware of the proper procedures for the removal or upgrade of your UST.

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JOB OPENINGS

To: Members/MGCSA

Koronis Hills Golf Club in Paynesville, Minn. is now accepting applications for the position of **Assistant Superintendent**. Koronis Hills became a new 18-hole course in June 1997. It is a public daily fee golf course measuring 6,136 yards with bent/poa greens and bluegrass tees and fairways.

Responsibilities: Irrigation repair and maintenance; fertilizer applications; preventative equipment maintenance; training and supervising staff, and in charge in absence of course superintendent.

We would expect this individual to assist the course superintendent in all aspects of golf course maintenance. Previous golf course maintenance is preferred. This is a new position which will start April 1, 1998. An employee contract including salary range, benefits and responsibilities will be negotiated depending on experience. Application deadline is February 15, 1998.

Resumes should be directed to:

RUSSELL OLSON
1340 13th St. Circle — No. 202
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

To: Members/MGCSA

Applications are now being accepted for the position of **Assistant Superintendent** at Bluff Creek Golf Course in Chanhasen, Minn. Bluff Creek is an 18-hole daily fee course. Start work in Spring of 1998.

This position requires several years experience and appropriate education as this assistant position would lead to the head position in two to three years.

Salary range: \$20,000-\$30,000 depending on qualifications. Send resume to:

BLUFF CREEK GOLF
P.O. Box 475
Excelsior, MN 55331

To: Members/MGCSA

Minnesota Valley Country Club is accepting applications for the position of **Second Assistant/Irrigation Technician**. This is a full-time, 12-month position.

Minnesota Valley is a private 18-hole course with bent/poa greens and tees, rye/poa fairways and a new Toro Osmac irrigation system.

Responsibilities include: Pesticide and fertilizer applications and recordkeeping; irrigation repairs and maintenance, and assist in overall golf course operation.

Requirements include: Completion of formal turf education or equivalent experience and a Minnesota Pesticide Applicators' License (or obtained within 4 months).

Compensation: Hourly wage commensurate with experience; health, dental and life insurance; vacation; 401 K; MGCSA dues, and playing privileges.

Send resume to:
Minnesota Valley C.C.
c/o LARRY MUELLER
6300 Auto Club Road

Ph: (612) 884-8733 Bloomington, MN 55438

To: Members/MGCSA

Emily Greens Golf Course is now accepting applications for the position of **Assistant Superintendent**. Duties will include Golf Course maintenance and directing crew members. Hourly wage is negotiable. Emily Greens Golf Course is an 18-hole course. The front nine is a 2,000-yard executive course. The back nine is a 3,400-yard championship course. The back nine features Minnesota's largest green. Emily Greens G.C. is located just north of the Brainerd lakes area in Emily, Minn.

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GCSAA Water Study Reflects Positively on Golf Courses

A Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA)-funded water quality study confirmed the results of previous research that pesticide runoff and leaching to ground water from golf courses is minimal, and when detected, at levels that are usually well below health advisory standards.

Researchers Stuart Cohen, Ph.D., Amelia Svrjek, Tom Durborow and N. LaJan Barnes analyzed data from 36 golf courses, all in the United States with the exception of one on Prince Edward Island, Canada. The group analyzed water quality monitoring data for the pesticides, metabolites, solvents and nitrate/nitrogen used on courses. Summaries of data were also obtained from Guam and Japan, but were treated separately.

The study determined that just nine of 12,101 analyses for pesticides in groundwater samples were in excess of drinking water health advisory levels. Only eight of 2,731 analyses for pesticides in surface water samples exceeded their respective drinking water limits, and 25 exceeded guidelines for aquatic organisms. In the surface water samples, there were no readings of nitrate/nitrogen levels above the federal drinking water standard, while just 31 of 849 groundwater samples exceeded the standards. The results from Guam and Japan were similar.

GCSAA Director of Research Jeff Nus, Ph.D., said the study was the first attempt at a comprehensive examination of water quality on golf courses. Past research, with similar results, was limited to just one geographic region. Still, Nus said this most recent study was not meant to be national estimates for golf course impacts on water quality.

"Based upon previous scientific research funded by the United States Golf Association, GCSAA had contended that properly managed golf courses do not pose a discernable

health risk, and in many cases improve the quality of water," Nus said. "This latest study is important because the data analyzed from surface and ground water from golf courses support the results of the previous USGA-funded studies under carefully controlled laboratory conditions."

Nus said three factors largely explain the positive results of the study:

1) Golf course superintendents are educated, licensed and regulated in the application of golf course chemicals — therefore they judiciously employ their use and adhere to science-based course management practices.

2) Healthy turfgrass acts as a good filter of water, thereby removing pollutants. Additionally, chemicals in water are broken down by microbes in the turfgrass ecosystem before they reach water sources.

3) The U.S. Environmental Protec-

tion Agency intensely scrutinizes all pesticides before they are registered for use.

"These results should not be used to support a relaxation of environmental stewardship by superintendents, especially when one considers the geographic data gaps," said Cohen, president of Environmental & Turf Services and principal investigator of the study. "However, these results *invalidate* the claims by some that golf courses should be treated as if they are hazardous-waste sites."

While this study is significant, Nus said additional scrutiny is likely. The issue of water quality for all uses (golf courses, industry, agriculture, etc.) is receiving considerable attention from researchers. He indicated that the United States Golf Association has contributed major funding to the issue of pesticide and nutrient fate.

GCSAA College Guide Outlines Golf Course/Turf Management Programs

The GCSAA has released a new and exclusive publication providing a concise profile of turfgrass management programs offered by two- and four-year colleges and universities.

The "GCSAA College Guide to the Golf Course Management Profession" is designed to assist individuals in selecting a turfgrass management program that best fits their needs. The 300-page publication provides information on faculty, special research and laboratory facilities, type of degrees offered, number of hours required for a degree, internships required, career-placement assistance, tuition costs and much more. It is organized into four sections, including:

- A description of the golf course superintendent profession and the role of superintendents play in the operation of a golf course;
- Examples of course/curriculum

outlines for two- and four-year turfgrass programs;

- In-depth profiles of U.S. institutions offering two- or four-year turfgrass programs;

- A geographical listing and chart of U.S. and selected international turfgrass programs, plus a quick reference chart that depicts the degrees and majors offered by each U.S. institution.

Students, parents and career counselors will benefit from the information contained in the College Guide.

The "GCSAA College Guide to the Golf Course Management Profession" is offered exclusively through GCSAA and is available for \$18. Copies may be ordered through the GCSAA Bookstore at 800/974-2722. For additional information, contact the GCSAA Career Development department at 800/472-7878, ext. 612.