

# Waiting to Exhale

*Golf Course Managers Have Until July to Prepare for a New Respirator Standard*

By ALAN JOHNSTON

*Certified Industrial Hygienist*

*3M Occupational Health and Environmental Safety Division*

Conscientious golf course superintendents recognize that good health and safety planning includes a respirator program that protects the maintenance staff against airborne contaminants encountered during chemical spraying, grinding/sanding and other general maintenance activities.

Recently there have been important changes that affect how respirators are selected and used. In July 1995, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), which is the federal government agency responsible for evaluating and certifying respirators and filters. These respirators are widely used for worker protection against hazardous particulates generated during operations such as sanding, grinding and spraying pesticides.

NIOSH updated its testing standard because the existing standard was more than 20 years old and because many workplace hazards exist today that previously hadn't been identified. In addition, NIOSH recognized that filter technologies, as well as measurement methods, have improved during the last two decades.

Implementation of the new certification, known as NIOSH 42 CFR Part 84, requires those responsible for managing respirator programs to reevaluate the process of respirator filter selection and plan for a transition to the new respirators.

## **New Standards, New Filters**

The new NIOSH standard creates three new classifications of filters: N-, R- and P-Series. Each of these new

series of filters has three levels of filtering efficiency — 95 percent, 99 percent and 99.97 percent — for a total of nine new classes of respirator filters. This new certification requirement is significant because it eliminates classification of respirator filters by hazard type (such as dust, mist, pesticides, etc.).

One of the major differences under the new standard is filter selection based on the presence of oil aerosols in the work environment. For example, oil aerosols can be found in machine shop lathe or machining operations in which oil is used as a lubricant or to dissipate heat, or during the application of pesticides. The three categories of resistance to oil aerosols are:

- “N” for **Not** resistant to oil.
- “R” for **Resistant** to oil.
- “P” for oil **Proof**.

For most golf course maintenance applications, the conservative selection is a P95 respirator because it offers protection against common particulates (dusts, mists) whether oil is present or not. Respirators and filters approved under the old standard will no longer be available after July 10, 1998.

Respirators approved under 42 CFR 84 must meet increased filter efficiency criteria. Manufacturers can meet these criteria by adding additional layers of filter material to existing respirators. But this approach may make respirators less comfortable and reduce worker acceptance to wearing them, especially as the filter material starts to “load” with airborne contaminants, thereby further

increasing breathing resistance.

A better solution is to make significant improvements in the filter media. New filters now on the market are made with an advanced electret media (AEM). These have a permanently imbedded electrostatic charge, which requires less filter material to achieve the same filtering efficiency as a purely mechanical filter. The result is easier breathing, greater worker comfort and higher worker acceptance.

Between now and July 1998, golf course managers have time to prepare for the changeover to the new respirators or filters by analyzing current respirator use, reevaluating respirator selection, determining which of the new filters will meet their needs and completing any training required. This transition process can be separated into four steps: workplace assessment, worker-needs evaluation, implementation and respirator program enhancements.

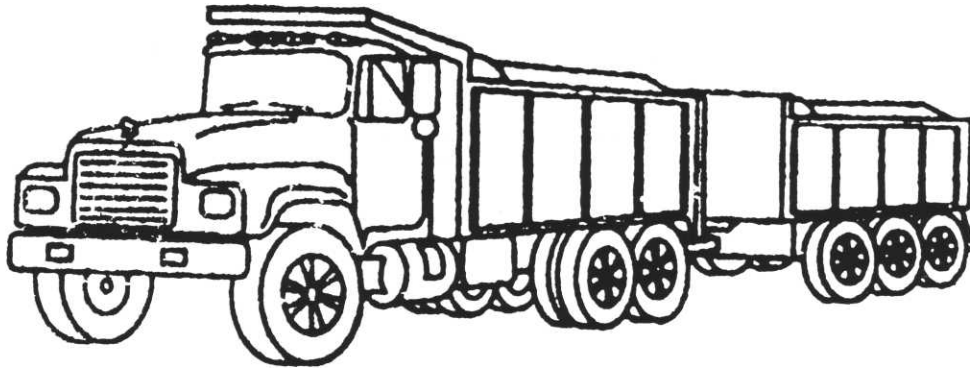
## **Workplace Assessment**

To manage an orderly transition, golf course managers must analyze their current respirator applications, determine which of the new filters will meet their needs and complete any training required to use the new filters.

The first step is to prepare a list of job duties for which respirators will be needed. Start by asking yourself these questions:

- What are the workplace applications (pesticide spraying or sanding, for example)?

*(Continued on Page 13)*



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## Waiting to Exhale—

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- What is the concentration level of the airborne contaminants?

- What are the workplace conditions — working outside or in a maintenance shop?

- Does the contaminant contain oil? Many pesticides and herbicides contain oil as a stabilizer or transport medium. Do your workers use oils for cleaning or lubrication in any repair operations? If so, you'll have to select a respirator with an R or P filter. Using R or P Series filters is also the most conservative approach.

- Are workers engaged in activities in which they are exposed to high heat and humidity — so that respirator comfort is especially important?

- Do you have the facilities to clean and maintain respirators, or would use of a maintenance-free respirator be easier and more convenient?

Although this process may seem daunting, the good news is that some of the new respirators will be configured specifically for use in particulate and gas and vapor environments — such as pesticide spraying. Models will be available that have easy-to-use combinations of chemical cartridges and particulate prefilters, so there will be no assembly required.

### Worker-Needs Evaluation

Next you'll want to evaluate the unique respirator needs of your workforce. Here are some questions to consider:

- How many types of respirators are currently in use?

- Is consolidating the number of respirator types important to you?

- Is respirator comfort important to your workers?

- What other protective gear are workers wearing that should be compatible with respirators?

- Are there any concerns about how the respirator program is organized or administered?

Obtain samples of respirators that have been selected, schedule fit-testing if required, and try the respirators in the workplace. Determine how workers react, how long the res-

pirators or filters will last and whether there are any durability issues or other concerns. Choose the specific respirators you plan to use.

### Implementation

Employers or green committees may ask golf course managers questions such as, "What is being done to ensure that we are in compliance?" and "Who is responsible for implementing and enforcing respiratory protection requirements?"

Employers should understand the rationale behind the new selection criteria and know which respirators are required for which applications. Although most maintenance workers probably won't be concerned about changes in terminology, such as "filter classification" and "efficiency," they should understand why you are introducing these new respirators and the rationale used to select them.

In some cases, additional respirator training and fit-testing may be required, so workers should understand the need for those activities. You should also explain that some of the new respirators have additional comfort features to help ensure worker acceptance. Communication of these changes can help minimize disruption, ensure continued productivity and promote good health and safety practices.

### Respiratory Program Enhancements

As a result of the new NIOSH standard, changes to respirator programs may be necessary. The transition to the new respirators can be used as an

opportunity to reevaluate all aspects of your program. This will allow you to ensure that your program is current and that you have the best respirator protection available for your particular applications. For golf courses that have hired new workers, or those whose respirator programs simply haven't been updated for some time — now is a good time to address these issues.

### A Smooth Transition

The transition to respirators approved under 42 CFR 84 may initially appear confusing, but it's actually not complicated. There are three essential steps to making a smooth transition: follow good industrial hygiene practices in evaluating workplace contaminants, match the proper respirator to the task and the worker and consider respirator fit and worker comfort to ensure respirator program compliance.

*(Editor's Note: This article was reprinted with permission from Golf Course Management Magazine.)*

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# William "Bill" Fischer

By JACK KOLB  
MGCSA Life Member

The Fischer name has been prominent in the border area of Eagan and Mendota Heights, especially since Louis Fischer and his wife Laura Franzmeier Fischer were given the Franzmeier Farm back in 1918. There still is a Fischer Station and Towing Service just down my street on Dodd Road. Knowing that Mendakota Country Club was built on the "Louie Fischer Farm" I decided to look for a link to the family and information pertaining to its creation.

William "Bill" Fischer was found living in retirement in St. Petersburg, Florida. Upon contacting Bill, I found an ebullient willingness to exchange information.

The history of the Fischer Farm and Mendakota Country Club can also be found in this issue of *Hole Notes*. I found Bill Fischer to be too interesting a subject to be kept from *Hole Notes* readers.

Bill Fischer was born in 1920 shortly after his parents had begun their career as farmers. As a young boy he watched his uncle Rudolph and his father Louis experiment with golf after Sunday dinners. A former German soldier and a good friend, Herman Giersh, worked for Somerset Country Club just down Dodd Road. Herman had acquired or found a couple of golf clubs and some balls and all three men shared the clubs. The golf holes were fashioned in the Fischer pasture using tomato cans as cups. So, Bill Fischer saw golf in its infancy.

By the time Bill Fischer was nine years old the infant golf course called Riverview Country Club had 18 holes. Many changes were yet to come as the young boy grew to manhood.



**THE FISCHER FAMILY** takes time out for a photo at their 50th Wedding Anniversary party. Pictured from left to right are, Lucy, son Jim and William "Bill" Fischer.

William was in on all the problems of an emerging industry including suitable equipment, conversion from sand greens to bent grass (1935). Remember this was a time of deep economic depression and severe drought. Wells had to be dug and the installation of an irrigation system followed.

All this training in golf course operations and suddenly we have a 21-year-old man wanted by the U.S. Army to come into their operation and do a career change! Bill, like many at that time, thought it was the thing to do and although the enemy was far from invading his country he went in defense of what he believed were injustices. Bill trained hard and like most country boys adapted well to military equipment. The day came to hit Omaha beach in northwest France. Bill's outfit had gone about six miles and were moving toward San Lo, France when his vehicle was blown up, an incident in which he

earned the Purple Heart medal. That did not stop Bill, after six more days and another nine miles another blast severely damaged his legs. This explosion was serious since his sciatic nerve was severed and his legs and body were full of shrapnel. He was sent back to the beach for quick repairs and thence to England.

In England, they "mined" his body for metal and sent him back to the USA aboard the Queen Elizabeth. He languished in military hospitals for 16 months. It wasn't until recently doctors discovered Bill's femoral artery was tied off during the beach operation. Bill jokingly says "I have found out why I cannot keep my legs and feet warm in Minnesota." Residual shrapnel in Bill's body still trigger security alarms at airports.

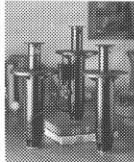
Upon returning to civilian life Bill went back to what he knew best, golf course management. His dad's old course now had taken on a new name

*(Continued on Page 17)*

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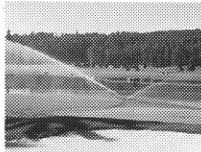
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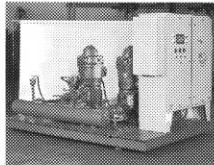
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## Bill Fischer—

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— it was now Twin Cities Country Club. Because of war-time injuries, he did not excel in the game of golf but his sister Lorraine Fischer McManus won two Public Golf Association championships. Lorraine won her first championship at Como Golf Course in 1948 and repeated again in 1949 at Meadowbrook Golf Course.

In 1956 Twin Cities Country Club was sold to its membership who then changed the name to Mendakota Country Club.

Bill Fischer and his father Louis, with a spirit of adventure and pioneering, went to Puerto Rico to develop and open a new golf course. Although Americans have been encouraged to start businesses in this country, it is still a foreign land and not like Mendota Heights, Minn. After a year of wrangling with foreign red tape, the Fischers returned to Minnesota and Bill became superintendent of The Lafayette Club.

Bill supervised work at Lafayette from 1958 until 1963. During this tenure Lafayette had a disastrous fire which destroyed the maintenance building and much of its equipment. In trying to salvage the equipment Bill suffered severe smoke inhalation which further contributed to his health problems.

In 1963 Milton Wiley and crew, consisting of dad John Wiley and son John Wiley, had completed work on Hazeltine and invited Bill Fischer aboard as the first superintendent in charge of Hazeltine. At the end of the 1966 season Bill decided St. Petersburg, Fla. would be a great place to open a garden nursery and moved there to pursue this business until retirement in 1978. Bill tried Las Vegas as a retirement community for four years but moved back to St. Petersburg in 1988 until the present.

The Fischers, Bill and Lucy, came back to Minnesota to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this past November. They have two adult children, a daughter Faye and son Jim.

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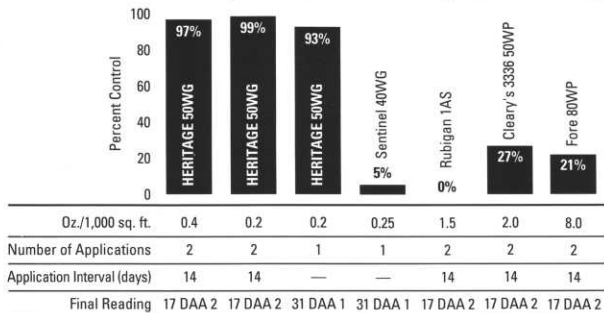


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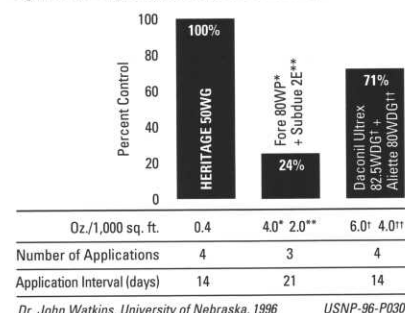
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### Anthracnose<sup>1</sup> (*Colletotrichum graminicola*) on 80% Annual Bluegrass, 20% Perennial Ryegrass



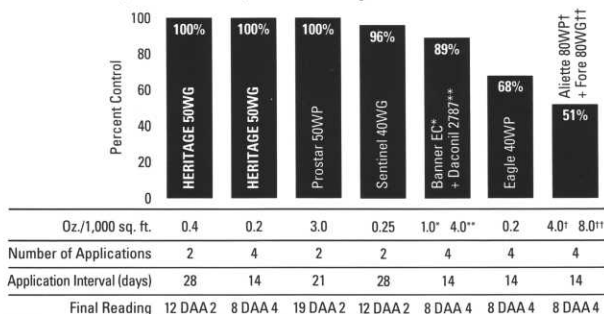
Dr. Don Scott, Purdue University, 1995 US 67-95-P354  
<sup>1</sup> Also isolated from plots: 2 species *Rhizoctonia*; 3 species *Pythium*; and several species *Phytophthora*.

### Pythium Blight (*Pythium aphanidermatum*) on Perennial ryegrass



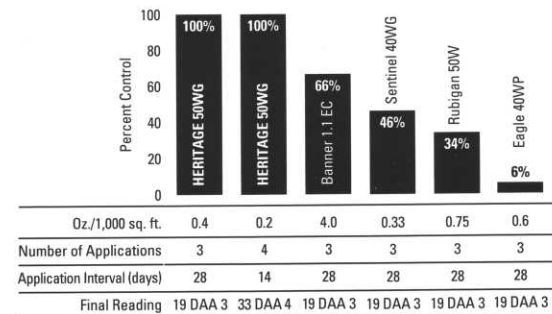
Dr. John Watkins, University of Nebraska, 1996 USNP-96-P030

### Brown Patch (*Rhizoctonia solani*) on Colonial Bentgrass



Dr. Pat Sanders, Penn State University, 1994 US 66-94-P362

### Summer Patch (*Magnaporthe poae*) on Kentucky Bluegrass



Dr. Bruce Clarke, Cooke College, Rutgers University, 1994 US 66-94-P362

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# The History Of Mendakota CC

By JACK KOLB

Back before there was a bridge over the Mississippi (Mendota Bridge) a ferry would take soldiers, horses, travelers and goods from one shore to the other. Fort Snelling was the main land owner and controlled vast areas of property. The area controlled by the Fort was known as the Fort Snelling Reservation. In Minneapolis, it included all the land east of the Fort to near the lakes of Calhoun and Harriet. The boundary to the north was near Lake Street. The area south of the river is more difficult to determine but it included all of Mendota and a great portion of Mendota Heights. Around the year 1853 the government began to sell parcels of the land to individuals.

Catholic Bishop Loras, in company with Father Ravoux, were cruising the area to determine a location for the historic St. Peters Church of Mendota. They were also interested in securing land for future use such as Resurrection Cemetery and a 160 acre parcel for the building of a Catholic Industrial School, the purpose of which was to extend to destitute, wayward or incorrigible children the protection of a home and education instructions in the arts and trades. The idea of the school was abandoned after the acquisition of 452 acres of land in St. Paul which today has become the St. Thomas University complex.

With the purchase of the property now known as St. Thomas University, the land in Mendota Heights was sold. Mr. Frederick Franzmeier purchased the property, and upon the marriage of his daughter, Laura Franzmeier, to a Mr. Louis Fischer in 1918, deeded the property to the newly-married couple.

Louis Fischer had some sort of insight on business. He built a 54' x 60' barn the quality of which was far and above any barn in the area. For those



**BEHIND THE TENTH TEE AT RIVERVIEW COUNTRY CLUB** we can see that the newest cars in the lot were 1937's. The farthest car on the left is a 1936 Terraplane. Riverview Country Club later changed its name to Mendakota Country Club.

of you who understand Gambrel Roofed barns, the area above the animal or basement portion is huge. Louis Fischer built his barn with hardwood tongue and groove flooring on the surface of what normally is the "Hay-Mow." He had already planned something other than farming and that was to have large "Barn-Dances." The Fischers did a lot of farm-type entertaining that was in the form of large Sunday dinners, the menu consisting of chicken with mashed potatoes, gravy and a lot of company!

From 1918 to 1925 Louis and Laura Fischer farmed their acreage. They kept cows, chickens and tilled the soil. They embarked on their marital life as farmers. In an interview (1948) with the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Louis is quoted as follows: "I'll never forget the day, it was April 10, 1926, Herman Giersh, a former German soldier and my brother, Rudolph invited

me to play golf. I was doubtful but went over to Herman's place out of curiosity."

Giersh was working at Somerset Country Club and had a couple of old clubs and some balls he had found. He also had arranged two holes using empty tomato cans for cups.

"We played there for a few hours, then I told the boys to come over to my place as I had more room in my pasture," said Louis. So that afternoon the trio went to the Louis Fischer farm and in the cow pasture they laid out five holes, again using empty tin cans for cups.

A few Sundays later when the Fischers had considerable company they all went out and played. The guests, nine in number, were so enthused that they decided to organize as a club and dues were assessed at 50 cents each. They cleaned up the pasture a little and

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# Mendakota—

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built sand greens. The Fischer cows were allowed in the pasture only on weekdays and were removed promptly at 4:00 p.m. Cows kept the grass down and added some unmentionable hazards. This was in the year of 1926. By the end of the year they had nine holes, and on a beautiful Sunday in August had 100 players at 25¢ each.

Successively, in 1927 and 1928, the course was enlarged to meet the ever increasing demands of golfers. By 1929 it was expanded to 18 holes and a total of 15,000 players had paid fees.

Eighteen grass greens were constructed in 1933 allowing the course to be awarded the 1934 State Publiclix Championship. Not many public courses had grass greens at this time.

Somewhere along the way the course was named Riverview Country

Club, a name that stuck until 1942 when the name was changed to Twin City Country Club.

In the meantime a clubhouse was needed. Louis Fischer by this time had sold all the animals and was deodorizing the barn to make way for use as a clubhouse. Louis remodeled the barn which became a rather attractive, three-story facility which served as living quarters, locker rooms, showers, dining room, snack bar and all the amenities found at a modern club. In 1933 the conversion of all greens to bent grass, along with an irrigation system, was completed. In 1935 a 20' x 50' addition was added to the south side of the (barn) Clubhouse.

During the late 1930s Northern States Power decided to run an electrical transmission line through the

property. Little is known about the litigation that ensued but one of the public relations gestures of NSP was to furnish all the technical knowledge of nightlighting and consultation on employment of night golf. A small 30 acre, 9-hole iron course (yardage ranged from 55 to 185 yards) with driving range, was built under lights. Twenty acres were used for the course and ten for the driving range. But as the war clouds of WWII became ominous, play diminished and the project was abandoned as part of the war effort.

In 1956 the club the Fischers had named Twin City Country Club was sold to a corporation made up of members of the club. In 1957 they (the membership corporation) changed the name to Mendakota Country Club as it remains today.

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