

Occupational Safety and Health Act

William Knight, a U.S. Dept. of labor compliance officer spoke to us about the general implications of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. While he could not be specific on golf course regulations he did point out how a inspection might come about and what generally the inspector would look for.

- A. Toxic Material – (defined as anything other than water) and their storage.
- B. Personnel inspection – (nothing definite other than no hard hats required)
- C. Outlets and Electrical equipment wired with three prong ground plug to allow for proper grounding.
- D. Machinery inspections – proper chain guards & shields, on chains, belts, and pulleys.
- E. Circuits must be marked in fuse or breaker box.
- F. Fire extinguishers – must be in proper place and painted red with the top not more than five feet off the ground.
- G. Hand rails on steps or guard rails around elevated storage areas.
- H Propane equipment must be anchored; gas cans either must be approved cans with fire arrestor screen or be stored in a separate metal building.
- I. Store oxygen and acetylene separately when not in use with caps on tanks (6' apart) and chain to wall; keep in cart when not in use.
- J. Use masks and protective clothing when mixing, handling, or spraying chemicals. (showers must be provided for men handling chemicals and toxic materials.)
- K. All vehicles traveling 5 miles per hour must be equipped with cabs or roll over protection. All new equipment from March 1972 forward must have such equipment and all equipment must have same by 1976. Safety belts must be on industrial trucks with cabs or roll protection and should be worn.

Also of importance is the need of record keeping which would apply to any employer of 8 or more employees. This figure includes total employees of the country club and not just your grounds crew. The required records and forms can be obtained from our regional OSHA office in Philadelphia.

OSHA Forms
Joseph Perzella
Penn Square Bldg.
Room 410
Juniper & Filbert Streets
Philadelphia, Pa. 19107

Request record keeping forms 100, 101 & 102. Failure to maintain these records will result in fines of one hundred dollars for each log of records.

This article is not intended to give you all the facts regarding OSHA but merely to remind you of the act and assure you that it is being enforced. During the first five months of 1972, OSHA compliance officers made more than 10,000 inspections, found more than 26,000 violations and issued over 2,000 citations.

ON THE SICK LIST

Tommy Doerer, Fort Belvoir Golf Club, is reported in good condition after a recent operation. We hope Tommy is feeling better and will soon be up and around.

NEWSLETTER MAILBAG

The following letter was submitted by Tony Goodley to inform other superintendents how he solved a unique problem which he had on his course.

Dear Craig,

Anyone who has ever worked on a golf course located way out in the "boonies" has some time or other experienced the problem I had. The problem being deer traffic on the greens. I guess I don't have to tell anyone the amount of damage that they can do.

Anyways shortly after we seeded our greens this past late fall and started to get some what of a light cover I started noticing occasional tracks of deer going through the greens. I didn't pay too much attention to it at first, thinking a stray deer just happened to pass in this area by accident.

Well as the weeks passed I realized that an awful lot of deer just happened to pass over my greens by accident, until it really became a problem.

I began asking a lot of people in the area what they had done to keep deer away, including superintendents, farmers, parks departments, and even our local extention agent.

Everyone seem to come up with the same question. Do you like venison? I do, but that didn't solve my problem, as no one is allowed to carry firearms on the project. You see we're one of many activities located on a land recreational development called "The Summit" and for obvious reasons no hunting is allowed.

So with that in mind all I could do was repair the damage and in the meantime hope another solution would come up.

Quite by accident I finally found an answer. I was talking one afternoon with Harold Moss, who is the President of our organization, and I explained to him my problem. Surprisingly enough he came up with a remedy I found hard to believe, but I was getting desperate enough to try anything.

Harold being an old orchard man and raising peaches and apples for years was quite familiar with having deer in an area where they were doing damage. (Eating the buds and fruit in his case.)

What he had done to keep the deer away was to put a piece of beef suet in a small bag or cloth and tie it to the crotch of the peach or apple trees. How this actually works he wasn't sure, although he thought the smell of the suet breaking down had a lot to do with it.

I tried it on some of the greens where traffic was most evident. Where I still got light traffic I added more suet and finally kept them away all together.

To put the suet around the greens I merely used a 4' reinforcement rod driven into the ground, at the edge of the green, with the suet tied to the rod in a piece of burlap material.

The number of stakes was determined by the size of the green. I used a "rule of thumb" putting 1 stake with the suet for every M2/ft., spaced evenly apart around the green.

This situation is working fine for us because the course won't open up until the end of May and the stakes aren't a problem to the golfers. What about when we open, what are we going to do then? This I'm not sure, maybe we can just tie the suet to the surrounding trees, or even put it

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AREA GOLF COURSE DESTROYED OVERNIGHT

The "Dirty Dozen" played golf yesterday during our first thaw of the season. Yesterday the sun came out, the snow began to disappear, the thermometer hit 65, but the ground was still saturated and partially frozen below the surface. "Unknowingly" a member placed the flags from the alternate greens back on the regular greens and consequently all the following play of the day trampled on the surface of the greens.

The soil went to mud, the mud went to clay, and after the thaw dried out, the clay became compacted. The greens no longer had drainage or air circulation. The grass that was trampled on while frozen either separated from its root system or died from a shattered cell structure.

The greens will no longer support a quality bentgrass much less a well hit golf shot. Soon annual grasses and weeds will infest the suppressed greens and probably a chemical program will be inacted to retard the spreading of the noxious weeds. After much money, nerves and patience is spent, a resolution of greens reconstruction is decided upon. For the next ten years the country club will commit twenty thousand dollars annually to undo the damage on the golf course that was destroyed overnight.

If you as a golf superintendent wish to avoid the above circumstances, but don't quite know what measures to take in a membership education program, you might benefit from a couple of posters or metal signs with the below **Course Closed Temporarily** statement. If you don't feel you are able to close the whole course change the heading to **Greens Closed Temporarily**. This statement was written by Fred Grau in the January, February, March issue of *Golfdom*, 1972.

Course Closed Temporarily

In the interest of all the members, and in an attempt to preserve the high quality of our greens, the course is closed to play until conditions warrant resumption of traffic.

Foot and wheel traffic on frozen grass causes the grass to turn brown and die. Ice crystals within the grass blades are distorted and rupture living cells, causing death.

When the frost is thawed by the warm sun the surface of the greens remain overly-wet for a short time. In this condition foot traffic can cause severe damage by breaking roots, creating compaction, and footprinting so badly that pleasurable putting is not possible.

Every effort is made to keep the course continuously playable, but when Nature fails to cooperate and brings frost or floods, we have no choice but to limit play. The understanding and consideration of the members are greatly appreciated.

The Golf Course Superintendent

Survey Reminder

This month of March marks the fourth month our survey has been in your hands; it was included within the December newsletter.

As of this date, we have only received a total of 22 surveys, less than 25% participation. How accurate would evaluations be on this small sampling? Granted, our percentage of returns is greater than a Neilson survey but a Neilson survey represents a good cross section of people — we don't!

The purpose of this survey is to benefit every superintendent with information on the high, low and average operating expenses of Mid-Atlantic area golf courses. An analysis of the answers from this questionnaire will provide useful figures to substantiate future expenditures within our own club budgets.

What is the average hourly wage for a golf course mechanic, assistant, or groundman? Is your salary above or below average for our Washington area? What do clubs typically spend annually for new equipment, maintenance of equipment, chemicals, fertilizers, etc. Does the maintenance cost of your irrigation system substantiate upgrading or replacing your old system?

We often justify the cost of new equipment on the present man hours required to complete a maintenance operation. The results of this survey could illustrate to your club officials a potential savings of manpower with an increased equipment replacement program.

The potential values of this survey are all too numerous to mention; for we can all find different applications for figures and statistics. As stated in past newsletters, the identity of each respondent will remain confidential and all questionnaires will be destroyed after the completion of our survey.

In order for these figures to provide us with accurate information every Mid-Atlantic golf course superintendent must complete and send in the questionnaire. A 100% accuracy is only obtainable with a 100% response.

We are conducting this survey for the purpose of our Mid-Atlantic members. Don't short change yourself on obtaining useful information. Please answer all questions and return survey to Mid-Atlantic Survey, 14405 Pecan Drive, Rockville, Md. 20853.

Your signature on the questionnaire is optional.

TWENTY-FIVE YEAR PINS

Two Mid-Atlantic members were recently awarded twenty five year pins by the GCSAA. Dr. Fred Grau and George Cornell were the recipients. George Cornell is the first commercial member to receive a twenty five year pin. According to George, he joined the GCSAA "when he was 16 years old!"

MAILBAG *Continued from page 2*

underground. I guess I'll just have to leave it up to "the great superintendent in the sky" he'll help me find a way, he always does.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Anthony P. Goodley, II
Golf Course Superintendent