

When Using Equipment, Think Safety

by Lance Ernst, Turf Equipment and Supply

Whenever people and machines come together, the opportunity for an accident is created. Golf courses, with their many acres of playing area, require people and machines to work together continuously to keep the golf courses in the best possible playing condition.

Unfortunately, the nature of mowing equipment is such that, when accidents *do* happen, they can result in serious injury. Some manufacturers spend great effort to make their equipment as safe to operate as possible. Despite these efforts, hundreds of people are injured each year.

Safety on the golf course must become a state of mind. It requires a respect for the equipment and a recognition of the potential dangers this equipment represents. Every operator must understand that accidents can happen if they don't follow the proper procedures, *all the time*. Manufacturers of quality turf maintenance equipment do everything possible to

make the equipment safe. Safety conscious golf course superintendents develop comprehensive plans for safe operation. But if the operator neglects even a single procedure or practice, accidents can occur.

Safe equipment operations can be thought of as a function of three things:

✓ **Proper maintenance of the equipment.** This, of course, would include the mechanic, but it should include the operator. The mechanic can provide a properly running piece of equipment when it leaves the shop, but if a malfunction occurs out on the course the operator must alert someone to avoid causing injury to himself or others.

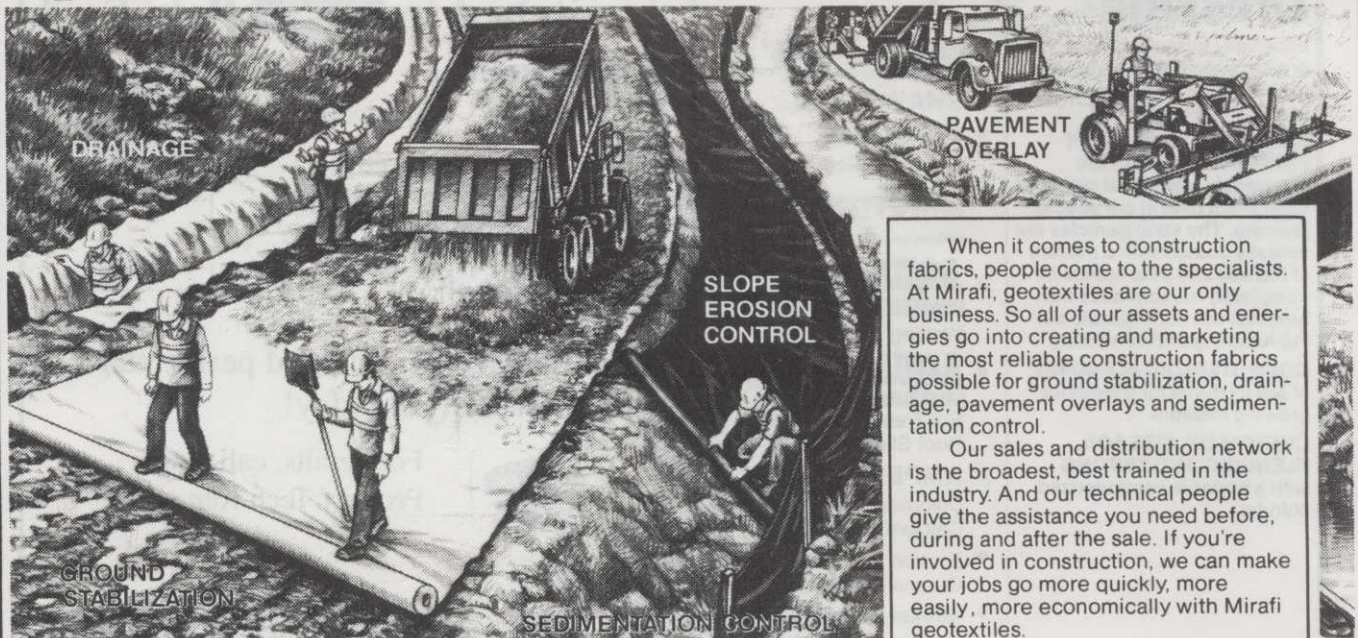
✓ **Proper training for operation of the equipment.** When you hire a new employee, or get a new piece of equipment, be sure to take the time for proper training on the equipment. This includes reading the owners manual and viewing the



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operators' training video. Once the operator has been properly trained, you should insist on safe and orderly operation of the equipment.

✓ **Using the equipment in the proper place—that is the place for which it was designed.** Manufacturers design equipment to perform a specific task or operation. Be sure your operators know the capabilities and limitations of the equipment.

All three factors are interrelated. If one of the above is ignored, the potential for an accident exists. Always follow proper safety practices and procedures. Make safety your most important consideration. Make your golf course a safe place to work and play.

Get out of that cart!

Research by the New Hampshire Heart Institute has revealed that walking the golf course three times a week will lower total cholesterol, raise the level of high-density, lipo-protein cholesterol—the good kind—in the blood and reduce the risk of coronary heart disease.

Golf Digest, August 1994



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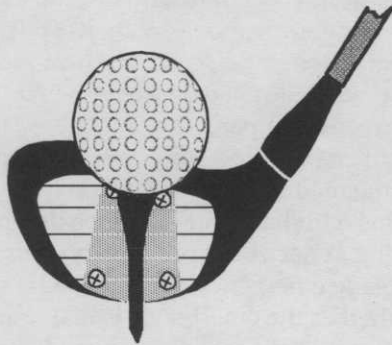


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