



From the Field

By **JEFF JENSEN**, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

Happy New Year to our GCSA of Northern California members. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. As we kickoff 2014, I wanted to take a moment to remind you about an important requirement and also a new member feature at gcsaa.org that will assist you in running your facility.

The new Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling (GHS) is a significant change for golf facilities. This international approach to hazard communication provides agreed upon criteria for classification of chemical hazards, and a standardized approach to label elements and safety data sheets. It is based on major existing systems around the world, including OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard and the chemical classification and labeling systems of other U.S. agencies. In March of 2012, the Occupational Safety and Health Agency (OSHA) first announced the adoption of the GHS and its integration into the Hazard Communication Standard.

OSHA is requiring that employees are trained on the new label elements (i.e., pictograms, hazard statements, precautionary statements and signal words) and SDS format. Under OSHA regulations, this training was to have been completed by Dec. 1, 2013.

If you haven't conducted the training, I recommend implementing it immediately. GCSAA provides a free 90-minute webinar (.2 education points upon completion) on GHS to members at http://www.gcsaa.org/_common/templates/GcsaaTwoColumnLayout.aspx?id=7884&LangType=1033.

The webinar provides detailed guidance on the training required to meet GHS, including discussions on training principles, considerations for the design of training, and what subjects to address when conducting the training.

New to GCSAA in 2014 (and a member added value) are the recently launched GCSAA regional webpages. A feature of gcsaa.org, the Southwest Region webpage focuses on industry related material from the Southwest Region which encompasses Arizona, California, Hawaii and Nevada.

The webpage includes current news from the region, a regionally focused job board, a resources area highlighted by helpful agronomic and facility tips, a member's on the move section, easy to navigate links to the 10 Southwest GCSAA affiliated chapters/allied golf organization websites and a blog section that will be updated every few weeks.

Additionally, the page features a complete social media center highlighted by a GCSAA Twitter Feed, a regional forum for networking with your peers and an RSS feed to GCSAA TV that will keep you entertained and educated.

You can visit the webpage at <http://www.gcsaa.org/community/regions/southwest.aspx> and if you have any suggestions to improve the site, please feel free to share them with me.

Thank you again for your support and if I can be of assistance don't hesitate to contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org. I look forward to seeing you at the GCSANC Annual Meeting on Jan. 14 or in Orlando at the Golf Industry Show.

Southwest Regional Webpage

GCSAA Members,

I want to personally invite each of you to check out the newest tools that GCSAA has developed to help us to better communicate with the members within our region. As your Southwest Field Staff Representative, these new tools will allow me to provide timely news and information specifically tailored to the members I serve. I am looking forward to a lot of great discussion and the sharing of innovative ideas.

I am especially excited about the new Southwest Forum and the Southwest Blog. The forum is designed to allow members in the Southwest region to post questions, comments and discussion topics geared toward members with similar agronomy / climate conditions and interests. As the GCSAA field representative in this region since 2012, I have had the opportunity to observe many interesting agronomic and management techniques, experience innovative chapter initiatives and events, and interact with so many fantastic GCSAA members in the region. I look forward to sharing these experiences with you on a routine basis on this blog.

Southwest Regional Webpage:

<http://www.gcsaa.org/community/regions/southwest.aspx>

At this webpage, you will find:

- The Latest Southwest Region News and Highlights
- Region Specific Education and Information Resources
- Links to Chapters, University Programs and Allied Associations

- A Link to the Southwest Regional Forum
- Regional Specific Compensation, Environmental and Pesticide Data
- Member Transitions: New Member Listings and Members on the Move
- Regional Job Postings
- GCSAA_SW Twitter Posts
- Southwest Field Staff Blog / Report

There are several formats for you to contribute and provide feedback to the information. I encourage members to post your thoughts, questions and observations. There is no better feedback than what you can receive from your peers and colleagues.

Thanks very much for your support. I am looking forward to seeing many of you during my upcoming travels during the end of 2013 and the beginning of 2014! As always, please contact me if there is anything I can do for you.

Sincerely,

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