The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California



SAFETY AND REGULATORY ISSUE

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Wildfire Smoke Safety Sheet

Green Valley Country Club Fairfield, California

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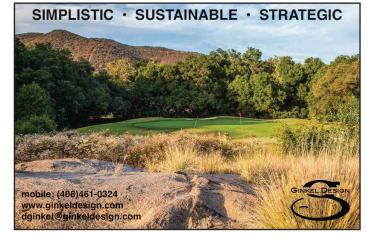
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PUBLICATION MANAGER MARC CONNERLY 916-214-6495 MConnerly@connerlyandassociates.com

Thru The Green published bimonthly by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California.

In response to member requests, we are now pleased to offer full-color, printed copies of Thru The Green for \$40 per issue. To order a copy, to be shipped to you via mail, submit your name, address and payment information to mconnerly@connerlyandassociates.com. To pay by check, send payment and contact information to GCSANC, 2235 Park Towne Cir., 2nd Floor, Sacramento, CA 95825.



Executive Director's Report

By MARC CONNERLY, GCSANC Executive Director

While the business of golf continues to hum along at record levels, the legislative, regulatory and economic climate in California remains fraught with perils and potential impediments.

By now, you're likely aware that AB 672, proposing to incentivize local municipalities to convert their golf course stock to housing, was defeated in late January when the bill stalled in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Unfortunately, there was little time to rejoice in the victory, as just three weeks after the defeat of AB 672, Cristina Garcia introduced AB 1910 with virtually the same language.

As of this writing, the new bill has unsurprisingly passed the Assembly Housing & Community Development Committee, and will be heard in the Assembly Local Government Committee on April 6, where the chances of defeating the bill would appear to be somewhat better than in Housing.

In addition to AB 1910, the industry will be closely watching AB 2146, which proposes to ban the use of Neonicotinoids. GCSAA has taken a position of opposition unless amended to allow the use of Neonicotinoids by professionally licensed certified applicators. GCSAA's Jeff Jensen is actively monitoring the bill and advocating for the requested amendments.

Also at the state level, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is proposing to ban combustion engine forklifts, including hybrid-electric solutions, only allowing batterypowered and hydrogen fuel cell forklifts. The measure is part of the state's decarbonization efforts, and is still in the very early stages of the rulemaking process, so we will continue to monitor closely and weigh in at the appropriate times in the process.

At the local level, the City of San Francisco has introduced a plan to ban the use of gaspowered landscaping equipment under 25 hp on City owned property effective January 1, 2024, and on private property within the City effective January 1, 2026. Whether you work in San Francisco or not, it's worth monitoring the progress of that proposal, as other major cities in the state, including several large municipalities in the Bay Area, are very likely to follow San Francisco's lead.

All of these land mines exist amidst worsening drought conditions and rampant inflation diminishing the disposable income of consumers.

Let's enjoy the good times while they're here, but remain mindful of these many challenges conspiring to burst golf's bubble.

From the Field

By JEFF JENSEN, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region

As we move into Spring, it's time to get in your donations to support Rounds 4 Research. The 2022 auction is scheduled for April 25 – May 1.

Rounds 4 Research allows participating chapters to raise funds for turfgrass research, education, and advocacy. California courses can donate a twosome or foursome and 80 percent of the funds raised in the auction go back to the chapter in which the rounds were solicited. The remaining 20 percent goes to cover the costs of the auction. It only takes a few minutes to donate online, and courses can stipulate blackout dates and times as needed. Donations can be made at <u>https://www.gcsaa.org/foundation/rounds-4-research</u>.

Additional information including marketing materials is also available on the webpage to help you promote the auction to golfers. For those wishing to view the auction and who is participating, please visit <u>https://www.biddingforgood.</u> <u>com/auction/auctionhome.action?vhost=rounds4research</u>.

GCSAA and your local chapter appreciates your support of the program and if you need assistance in making your donations, please don't hesitate to contact Mischia Wright at <u>mwright@gcsaa.org</u>.

In other news, the Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards (ELGA) applications are due April 29. Presented by GCSAA and Golf Digest in partnership with Syngenta, the ELGA's recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses around the world for their commitment to environmental stewardship.

There are four ELGA Awards available including the Natural Resource Conservation Award, Healthy Land

Stewardship Award, Communication and Outreach Award and the Innovative Conservation Award.

There will be one winner and two runners-up recognized for each award. GCSAA members may apply to one, two, three or all four awards in a single year. However, an individual can only win one award per year.

California superintendents have dominated the awards over the years including 2021 when Gary Ingram, CGCS (Metropolitan Golf Links), Wayne Mills (La Cumbre Country Club), Jay Neunsinger (Boundary Oak Golf Course, currently Richmond Country Club) and Scott Bower (Martis Camp Club) claimed awards in the various divisions.

For more information or to apply, visit <u>https://www.gcsaa.org/about-gcsaa/awards/environmental-leaders-in-golf-awards</u>.

Lastly, GCSAA is taking names for national committee volunteers. While most of the committee positions for 2022 are filled up, we will continue to accept names for a few open spots as well as for 2023. It's a great opportunity to serve GCSAA and there's a committee for every interest. For more information visit <u>https://www.gcsaa.org/committee-volunteer</u>.

Thank you for your continued support and if I can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at jjensen@ gcsaa.org and follow me on <u>Twitter @GCSAA SW</u> for industry updates.





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Worker Safety and Health in Wildfire Regions

Link: Worker Health and Safety in Wildfire Regions (ca.gov) https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Worker-Health-and-Safety-in-Wildfire-Regions.html

Wildfire smoke and cleanup presents hazards that employers and workers in affected regions must understand. Smoke from wildfires contains chemicals, gases and fine particles that can harm health. Hazards continue even after fires have been extinguished and cleanup work begins. Proper protective equipment and training is required for worker safety in wildfire regions.

Power outages can also present electrical and other hazards for workers. Proper installation and use of generators can prevent electrocution hazards. Workers must also be aware of the potential of electrocution or being injured by moving parts of machinery and other equipment when power is restored. Workers can also face health hazards from power outages in unventilated areas when ventilation systems are not working.

Cal/OSHA has a regulation (section 5141.1) to protect employees exposed to wildfire smoke. The regulation requires the following:

- Identification of harmful exposures
- Communication
- Training and instruction
- Appendix B to Section 5141.1
- Control of harmful exposures
- Specific particulate sampling requirements if an employer opts to monitor employee exposure with a direct reading instrument

Cal/OSHA encourages employers and workers to review the following pages with information and resources on protecting workers exposed to smoke from wildfires and worker safety during cleanup:

- 1. FAQs about Wildfire Hazards <u>www.dir.ca.gov/</u> <u>dosh/wildfire/wildfire-faq.html</u>
- 2. Protecting Outdoor Workers Exposed to Smoke from Wildfires <u>www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/wildfire/</u> Worker-Protection-from-Wildfire-Smoke.html
- 3. Protecting Indoor Workplaces from Wildfire Smoke with Building Ventilation Systems and Other Methods <u>www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/wildfire/</u> <u>Indoor-Protection-from-Wildfire-Smoke.html</u>
- 4. Worker Safety and Health During Fire Cleanup www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/wildfire/Worker-Healthand-Safety-During-Fire-Cleanup.html
- 5. Safety and Health of Workers Rebuilding after Wildfires <u>www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/wildfire/</u> <u>Rebuilding-after-Wildfires.html</u>

For more resources, please visit: Worker Health and Safety in Wildfire Regions (ca.gov).





Ergonomics

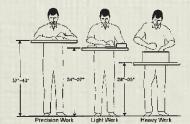
Create a better match between the worker, the work they perform, and the equipment they use by building your own ergonomic plan.

General

California is the first state in the nation to have a legally enforceable repetitive motion injury standard, which can be found in Title 8, California Code of Regulations (CCRs), Section 5110. The standard became effective July 3, 1997.

Whether your employees rotate tasks, stretch, or avoid awkward postures, these resources can be helpful in most job functions.

Standing Workstation Guidelines: www.safeatworkca. com/safety-articles/standingworkstation-guidelines Warm-up and Stretch: www.safeatworkca.com/safetyarticles/stretching



Landscaping

Landscapers perform a wide variety of tasks from mowing lawns and pruning bushes to weeding, planting, tree trimming, and irrigation work. Many of these tasks require awkward postures, forceful exertions, repeated movements, and exposures to heat, cold, whole body vibration and handarm vibration—all risk factors for developing musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs).

Go to the following link to get resources on landscaping ergonomics: www. safeatworkca.com/safety-articles/landscaping-ergonomics

Agriculture

Backaches and pain in the shoulders, arms, and hands are among the most common workplace injury symptoms agriculture workers face. Here are some solutions to help you reduce these risks to your employees.

Job Rotation:

- Analyze which jobs are the most repetitive or demanding and which jobs are the least repetitive or demanding and rotate between them. Or, look to make changes to the most repetitive or demanding jobs as risks are identified.
- Ensure that the rotation plan relieves stress on muscle groups most often used in a task or job. Develop a rotation cycle that has lighter tasks following heavier tasks to give muscles and other soft tissues a chance to recover. For example, alternate tasks that require forward flexion or lifting with tasks that require standing or walking.
- Look at improving job tasks through process and design changes before implementing rotation. The goal is to reduce reaching, lifting, and forward flexion from jobs and consider if the job or task can benefit or be better performed at a seated workstation.
- Teach employees to self-rotate. If not a safety hazard, they may be able to switch sides of the machinery, move to the opposite side of a conveyor, or change hands periodically so that one side or one part of the body is not over-used. Change the mouse hand—move the mouse to the left hand if it is normally used with the right hand and vice versa—is often suggested for heavy computer usage.

Other Agriculture Resources:

Rest Break Benefits: <u>www.safeatworkca.com/safety-articles/rest-break-benefits/</u> Kneeling: <u>www.safeatworkca.com/safety-articles/kneeling</u>

For a comprehensive guide on Ergonomic Resources that will benefit your staff, visit: www.safeatworkca.com/topic/ergonomics/



Heat Illness Prevention

Water. Rest. Shade.

California employers are required to take these four steps to prevent heat illness:

1. Training

Train all employees and supervisors about heat illness prevention.

2. Water

Provide enough fresh water so that each employee can drink at least 1 quart per hour, or four 8 ounce glasses, of water per hour, and *encourage them to do so*.

3. Shade

Provide access to shade and encourage employees to take a cool-down rest in the shade for at least 5 minutes. *They should not wait until they feel sick to cool down.*

4. Planning

Develop and implement written procedures for complying with the Cal/OSHA Heat Illness Prevention Standard.

The above four points followed by: For more resources visit the following link: <u>https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/HeatIllnessInfo.html</u>

The heat illness contact information: HIPNetwork@dir.ca.gov





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Protecting Workers Exposed to Wildfire Smoke

Cal/OSHA's regulation T8CCR, section 5141.1,

Protection From Wildfire Smoke, addresses the hazards workers may be exposed to from the small particles in wildfire smoke, known as PM2.5. This fact sheet provides an overview, not all of the requirements of section 5141.1.

Which employers must comply with the standard?

Section 5141.1 applies to workplaces when there are two conditions in place:

- 1. The current Air Quality Index (AQI) for airborne particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or smaller (PM2.5) is 151 or greater.
- 2. The employer should reasonably anticipate that employees could be exposed to wildfire smoke.

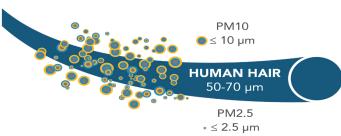
What is "current AQI"?

The Current AQI is the method used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to report air quality on a real-time basis. Current AQI is also referred to as the "NowCast," and represents data collected over time periods of varying length in order to reflect present conditions as accurately as possible.

Which employers are exempt from the standard?

Employers with workplaces and operations in any of the following conditions are exempt from section 5141.1:

- Enclosed buildings or structures in which the air is filtered by a mechanical ventilation system and the employer ensures that windows, doors, bays and other openings are kept closed except when it is necessary to open doors to enter or exit.
- Enclosed vehicles in which the air is filtered by a cabin air filter and the employer ensures that windows, doors and other openings are kept closed except when it is necessary to open doors to enter or exit.
- The employer demonstrates that the concentration of PM2.5 in the air does not exceed a concentration that corresponds to a current AQI of 151 or greater by measuring PM2.5 levels at the worksite in accordance with Appendix A.
- Employees are exposed to a current AQI for PM2.5 of 151 or greater for a total of one hour or less during a shift.
- Firefighters engaged in wildland firefighting.



What are the hazards?

Wildfire smoke is composed of harmful chemicals and tiny particles suspended in the air. The small particulates (PM2.5) can present a significant health hazard for workers exposed to the smoke, even when they are not working near a wildfire. These particles can irritate the lungs and cause serious or even fatal health effects, such as:

- Reduced lung function
- Bronchitis
- · Worsening of asthma
- Heart failure

What do employers have to do?

- Identify harmful exposures: determine employee exposure to PM2.5 at the start of each shift and periodically thereafter, as needed.
- **Communicate with employees:** implement a system for communicating wildfire smoke hazards in a language and manner readily understandable by all employees. This includes encouraging employees to inform their employer of worsening air quality and adverse symptoms that might be related to wildfire smoke.
- **Train and instruct employees:** provide effective training—in a language and manner readily understandable by the employees—that includes at least the information contained in **Appendix B** of section 5141.1.
- Control harmful exposures to employees: reduce workers' exposure to wildfire smoke in the following ways:
 - 1. Engineering Controls: Where feasible, provide engineering controls such as an enclosed location with filtered air so that employee exposure to PM2.5 is less than a current AQI of 151, or to the extent feasible.
 - 2. Administrative Controls: If engineering controls are not feasible or adequate, use practicable administrative controls such as relocate to another



Workers Exposed to Wildfire Smoke Hazards

What are the hazards?

Wildfire smoke can be a hazard for workers even when they are not close to a fire. The smoke contains very fine particles in the air, also called particulate matter (PM). The major health concerns are the smallest particles called "PM2.5" because they are 2.5 microns in diameter or smaller. That is much smaller than the diameter of a human hair. PM2.5 can irritate the lungs and cause serious or even fatal health effects, such as:

- Reduced lung function
- Bronchitis
- Worsening of asthma
- Heart failure

Cal/OSHA has a regulation, **section 5141.1**, Protection From Wildfire Smoke, that requires employers to protect workers from unhealthy levels of PM2.5. This fact sheet provides an overview, not all the details of the section 5141.1 requirements.

When does an employer have to comply with section 5141.1?

Two conditions must be in place:

- 1. The current Air Quality Index (AQI) for PM2.5 for the location where workers are working is 151 or greater. The current AQI is the method used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to report air quality.
- 2. The employer should reasonably anticipate that workers could be exposed to wildfire smoke.

Employers with workplaces and operations in any of the following conditions do not have to implement section 5141.1:

- Enclosed buildings or structures in which the air is filtered by a mechanical ventilation system, and windows, doors, bays and other openings are kept closed except when doors are opened to enter or exit.
- Enclosed vehicles in which the air is filtered by a cabin air filter and the employer ensures that windows, doors and other openings are kept closed except when doors are opened to enter or exit.
- The employer measures the concentration of PM2.5 in the air and shows that the current AQI is not 151 or higher.
- Workers exposed to a current AQI for PM2.5 of 151 or



greater for a total of one hour or less during a shift.

Firefighters engaged in wildland firefighting.

What does an employer have to do if section 5141.1 applies to their workplace?

- Identify harmful exposures: Determine what exposures to PM2.5 their workers have at the start of each shift and then periodically, as needed.
- Communicate with workers: Inform workers of wildfire smoke hazards so all workers understand. This includes encouraging workers to inform their employer without fear of retaliation—of worsening air quality and symptoms that might be related to wildfire smoke. The employer must inform workers about:
 - The current AQI for PM2.5.
 - Protective measures available to them to reduce their wildfire smoke exposures.
- Train and instruct workers: Provide training to workers so that they understand at least the following information regarding wildfire smoke:
 - The health effects.
 - The right to obtain medical treatment without fear of retaliation.
 - How workers can find out the current AQI for PM2.5.
 - The requirements of the Cal/OSHA wildfire smoke standard.
 - The employer's two-way communication system.
 - The employer's methods to protect workers from wildfire smoke.
 - The importance, limitations, and benefits of using a respirator.

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Additional Safety and Regulatory Resources

CAL/OSHA Publications www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/puborder.asp#IIPP

State Fund's IIPP BuilderSM www.safeatworkca.com/iipp-builder

The Cal/OSHA Hazard Communication Regulation www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/dosh_publications/hazcom.pdf

Guide to Developing Your Workplace Injury & Illness Prevention Program www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/dosh_publications/iipp.pdf

Safety Resource Library www.safeatworkca.com/safety-resource-library/

Safety Seminars www.safeatworkca.com/safety-seminars/



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