

GET REAL WITH RISK ASSESSMENTS

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INTRODUCTION – GOLF COURSE SAFETY MANAGEMENT AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

- **THERE HAS BEEN A WORRYING INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING WORK EQUIPMENT – TWO FATAL ACCIDENTS AND NUMEROUS SERIOUS INJURIES**
- **A COMMON OUTCOME OF THE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS IS THE LACK OF SITE/TASK SPECIFIC RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR THE TASKS BEING UNDERTAKEN. THIS IS A SERIOUS MATTER AND FEATURED PROMINENTLY IN THE CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST THE EMPLOYER**

INTRODUCTION

- RISK ASSESSMENTS MUST BE SUPPORTED BY OTHER ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS THAT TOGETHER MAKE UP A SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM - A STATEMENT OF SAFETY POLICY; THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANAGING THE SAFETY OF THE SITE; THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANAGING EMERGENCIES; RECORDS OF TRAINING, SAFETY INSPECTIONS, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF WORK EQUIPMENT AND SO ON
- THE GCMA/BIGGA SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CONTAINS ALL THE FEATURES NEEDED TO MEET THE HSE/LA STANDARDS – HOWEVER IT CANNOT REFLECT THE ACTUAL SITUATION OF EACH GOLF CLUB AND THEREFORE IT MUST BE ADAPTED SO THAT IT REFLECTS THE ACTUAL SITE AND WORK ACTIVITIES
- IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE ESSENTIAL REFERENCE WORK FOR THE HEAD GREENKEEPER/COURSE MANAGER IS *“HEALTH AND SAFETY IN GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE”* WRITTEN AND PUBLISHED BY THE GTC (www.the-gtc.co.uk) IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE



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RISK ASSESSMENTS - SETTING THE STANDARD

- **A GOLF COURSE RISK ASSESSMENT MUST ADDRESS THE HAZARDS FOUND IN A THOROUGH HOLE-BY-HOLE EXAMINATION TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THREE IMPORTANT GROUPS – STAFF – GOLFERS – THE PUBLIC, AND THE INTERACTION BETWEEN EACH GROUP**
- **CLUB POLICY MUST CLEARLY SET OUT THE LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENSURING WORK IS POSSIBLE WITH MINIMUM RISK TO ANY OF THE ABOVE GROUPS. PRIORITY ON THE COURSE GENERALLY AND ANY OTHER SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS CANNOT BE VAGUELY UNDERSTOOD, THEY MUST BE MADE CLEAR BY THE BEST PRACTICAL MEANS – A SMALL FADED NOTICE ON THE CLUB NOTICE BOARD IS NOT ENOUGH!**
- **CONSIDER PUTTING A SIGN ON THE 1ST TEE, USE THE SCORECARD OR IF NECESSARY AT INDIVIDUAL TEES BUT AVOID SPOILING THE GOLF COURSE WITH UNNECESSARY SIGNS!**

RISK ASSESSMENT ESSENTIALS - GREENKEEPERS

- **SLOPES AND BANKS ARE THE BIGGEST SINGLE HAZARD IDENTIFIED IN RECENT ACCIDENTS – FAILURE TO ASSESS THE ANGLE OF A SLOPE AND THE SUITABILITY OF WORK EQUIPMENT SO THAT IT IS USED WITHIN IT'S DESIGN SPECIFICATION ARE COMMON – IT IS NOT ONLY THE ANGLE OF THE BANK BUT THE CONDITION OF THE SURFACE – THE PROXIMITY OF THE SLOPE TO OTHER HAZARDS SUCH AS BUNKERS, LAKES AND PONDS**
- **WHERE A RISK ASSESSMENT IDENTIFIES THAT THERE IS A RISK OF A ROLL OVER ACCIDENT WITH RIDE ON EQUIPMENT, THAT EQUIPMENT WILL BE FITTED WITH A ROLL OVER BAR AND A SEAT BELT. WHERE THE EQUIPMENT IS USED IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES IDENTIFIED IN THE RISK ASSESSMENT – THE SEAT BELT WILL BE WORN! THIS BECOMES A SAFETY RULE AND NOT AN OPTION!**





RISK ASSESSMENT ESSENTIALS - GREENKEEPERS

- **ESTABLISHING SAFE WORK PRACTICES WHERE HAZARDS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED – A GOOD EXAMPLE WOULD BE TURNING WORK EQUIPMENT ON A GREEN WHERE THERE IS INSUFFICIENT SPACE BETWEEN THE EDGE OF THE PUTTING SURFACE AND A HAZARD SUCH AS A BUNKER. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH STAFF IT IS OFTEN FOUND THAT THEY HAVE THEIR OWN IDEAS ABOUT TURNING, SOMETIMES WITH DISASTROUS RESULTS! IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO AGREE A SAFE SYSTEM OF WORKING FOR PARTICULAR SITUATIONS**
- **IT IS NOT ONLY THE WORK SITE WHERE THERE MAY BE HAZARDS, THERE ARE LIKELY TO BE HAZARDS WHEN TRAVELLING BETWEEN WORK SITES E.G. DRIVING A GREENS MOWER FITTED WITH SLICK TYRES FROM GREEN TO GREEN DOWN/UP STEEP SLOPES IN WET CONDITIONS. AGAIN IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO AGREE SPECIFIC SAFE ROUTES.**
- **SOME GOLF COURSES HAVE MANY CROSSING POINTS OVER DITCHES AND STREAMS, IT MAY COME AS A SURPRISE TO STAFF THAT SOME OF THESE WERE NOT DESIGNED TO TAKE WORK EQUIPMENT! ENSURE ALL CROSSING POINTS SUITABLE FOR WORK EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED**



RISK ASSESSMENT ESSENTIALS - GREENKEEPERS

- **WHERE CONSTRUCTION OR REPAIR WORK IS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY STAFF OR BY CONTRACTORS CONSIDERATION MUST BE GIVEN TO THE SAFETY OF THE WORKERS, GOLFERS, THE PUBLIC AND A SEPARATE RISK ASSESSMENT MAY BE NEEDED AS PART OF THE PREPARATION OF THE TASK**
- **IN ADDITION TO ASSESSING RISKS AT THE WORK SITE THERE WILL ALSO BE A NEED TO CONSIDER HAUL ROUTES**
- **HOLES MAY NEED TO BE CLOSED, SHORTENED, TEMPORARY GREENS AND/OR TEES**
- **WHERE THE WORK INVOLVES THE USE OF HIRE EQUIPMENT E.G. DIGGER/LOADERS, EXCAVATORS, DUMPER TRUCKS ETC. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT STAFF ARE TRAINED, COMPETENT, AND WHERE NECESSARY HAVE OBTAINED THE NECESSARY CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCE**



OTHER REGULATIONS REQUIRING RISK ASSESSMENTS

- **THE MANUAL HANDLING REGULATIONS CONTAIN DUTIES FOR THE EMPLOYER TO AVOID THE NEED FOR EMPLOYEES TO PUT THEMSELVES AT RISK WHEN HANDLING HEAVY AND AWKWARD SHAPED ITEMS. THIS INVOLVES THE DESIGN, LAYOUT AND THE PROVISION OF MECHANICAL AIDS THAT AVOID THE NEED TO LIFT AND CARRY HEAVY ITEMS**
- **TRAINING STAFF IN SAFE LIFTING TECHNIQUES MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENT ACTION UNDER THESE REGULATIONS**
- **TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS IF THERE ARE ANY ALTERATIONS TO BE MADE TO BUILDINGS**
- **PRIOR TO UNDERTAKING TASKS INVOLVING MANUAL HANDLING MAKE SURE THERE ARE RISK ASSESSMENTS AND SAFE SYSTEMS OF WORK IN PLACE**
- **AN IMPORTANT PART OF PREPARING THE RISK ASSESSMENT WILL BE TO SEE IF THE MANUAL HANDLING TASK CAN BE AVOIDED, PERHAPS BY HIRING IN MECHANICAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT E.G. FORK LIFT MACHINES**

OTHER REGULATIONS REQUIRING RISK ASSESSMENTS

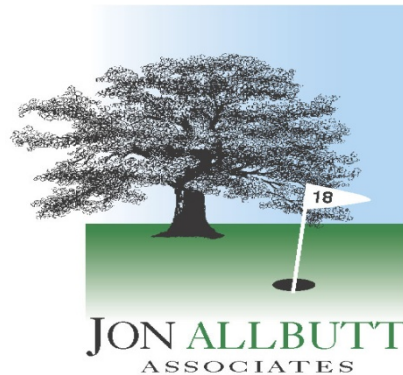
- **THE C.O.S.H.H REGULATIONS CONTAIN DUTIES FOR THE EMPLOYER TO AVOID AND/OR REDUCE EXPOSURE OF EMPLOYEES TO HARMFUL SUBSTANCES.**
- **MOST COSHH FILES CONTAIN DATA SHEETS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR THE CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES IN USE IN THE WORKPLACE BUT THEY MISS TWO ESSENTIAL ADDITIONAL ASPECTS OF THESE REGULATIONS**
- **ALL WHO WORK OUTSIDE ARE AT RISK OF EXPOSURE TO BIOLOGICAL AGENTS SUCH AS TETANUS, WEILLS DISEASE, LYMES DISEASE, LEGIONELLA AND MANY OTHERS – A COSHH FILE MUST CONTAIN RISK ASSESSMENTS TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO THESE POTENTIALLY FATAL SUBSTANCES**
- **ALL WHO WORK OUTSIDE ARE VERY LIKELY TO BE EXPOSED TO DUST OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME AND THIS CAN LEAD TO A NUMBER OF RESPIRATORY DISEASES SUCH AS ASTHMA, LUNG CANCER, EMPHYSEMA. A COSHH FILE MUST CONTAIN RISK ASSESSMENTS WITH ACTIONS TO REDUCE RISKS OF EXPOSURE TO DUST**

OTHER REGULATIONS REQUIRING RISK ASSESSMENTS

- GREENKEEPERS WILL BE USING VARIOUS TYPES OF WORK EQUIPMENT DURING THE MAJORITY OF THEIR WORKING DAY. THIS WILL RESULT IN EXPOSURE TO NOISE AND VIBRATION THAT CAN RESULT IN LOSS OF HEARING AND VIBRATION DAMAGE; THESE CONDITIONS CAN BE VERY SERIOUS AND IRREVERSIBLE
- HSE HAS PRODUCED EXCELLENT GUIDES FOR EMPLOYERS TO HELP THEM PREPARE RISK ASSESSMENTS UNDER BOTH OF THESE REGULATIONS – THEY ARE AVAILABLE FREE ON WWW.HSE.GOV.UK
- MANUFACTURERS OF WORK EQUIPMENT HAVE TO PROVIDE DATA ON NOISE AND VIBRATION THIS PROVIDES THE EMPLOYER WITH THE START POINT FOR PREPARING RISK ASSESSMENTS
- WORK PATTERNS MAY NEED TO BE VARIED TO AVOID CUMULATIVE EXPOSURE TO NOISE AND VIBRATION



THANK YOU



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