

Twelve Steps to Safety Step Six: Landscaping and Horticulture

In September 2003, CMAA signed an Alliance with OSHA to promote safe and healthful working conditions for membership club employees in the areas of hazard communication, record-keeping and respiratory protection. In February 2005, CMAA renewed its Alliance and added a new scope of concentration, landscaping and horticulture. The Alliance was again renewed in October of 2007. This article, the sixth in a series of 12 articles, was written by club industry expert Alan Achatz, CCM, CHE, of AKA Capitol Adventures in conjunction with participants in the OSHA and CMAA Alliance. The purpose of this series is to help new and seasoned managers embark on a path to safety compliance at their facilities.

Addressing all the eventualities that can occur for those who work outdoors is a vast undertaking. The considerations vary greatly for those who work on a golf course in Arizona in August compared to those who operate a snow blower at a downtown city club in Minnesota in January.

Safety and health is everyone's collective responsibility. Everyone from management to the line employee needs to work together to determine the safety and health issues relevant to the operation to address those issues.

Accidents, injuries and illnesses can result from a variety of factors including: exposure to plants or animals; the type of work being done and the equipment being used; improper training or the lack of training; the communication skills of the workers; and lack of personal protective equipment (PPE) or provided PPE not being used.

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This article provides information on and links to Web sites that offer guidance on issues related to landscaping and horticulture. There is a wealth of knowledge available at each of the mentioned links. Additionally, you might be redirected to numerous other sites while researching any or all of the following topics:

Landscape and Horticultural Services Safety and Health Topics Home Page

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Web site has a Safety and Health Topics page dealing with landscaping concerns. Available online at <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/landscaping/index.html>, this page includes information on potential hazards and possible solutions, including: cuts and amputations; electrical; ergonomics; heat and cold stress; lifting and awkward postures; motor vehicles; noise; pesticides and chemicals; and slips, trips and falls.

Potential Hazards and Possible Solutions

The following links to specific parts of the Landscape and Horticulture Services and other OSHA Safety and Health Topics pages contain information on potential hazards and possible solutions for specific activities.

General

Cuts and Amputations:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/landscaping/solutions.html#machinerytools>

Electrical:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/landscaping/solutions.html#electrical>

Ergonomics:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/ergonomics/index.html>

Heat and Cold Stress:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/landscaping/solutions.html#heatcold>

Lifting and Awkward Postures:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/landscaping/solutions.html#lifting>

Motor Vehicles:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/motorvehiclesafety/index.html>

Noise:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/noisehearingconservation/index.html>

Pesticides and Chemicals:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/landscaping/solutions.html#pesticideschemicals>

Slips, Trips and Falls:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/landscaping/solutions.html#slipstripsfalls>

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Specific Activity

Irrigation:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/landscaping/solutions.html#Irrigation>

Landscape/Hardscape Construction:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/landscaping/solutions.html#Hardscape>

Lawn and Landscape Maintenance:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/landscaping/solutions.html#Maintenance>

Planting – Trees, Shrubs and Lawn:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/landscaping/solutions.html#Planting>

Soil Preparation and Grading:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/landscaping/solutions.html#SoilPrep>

Tree Care:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/landscaping/solutions.html#TreeCare>

Trenching and Excavation:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/trenchingexcavation/index.html>

Additional Resources

The following sites offer additional resources to help you and your employees work safely.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

The CDC's Web site addresses numerous topics including Workplace Hazards, Workplace Illnesses, Injuries & Health Disorders and Workplace Safety & Prevention. Many of their pages are available in Spanish as well: <http://www.cdc.gov/Workplace/>

A-Z index – to help locate additional information about workplace hazards:

<http://www.cdc.gov/az/a.html>

Hand Power Tools:

http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/menu/topic/machinery_hand.html

Noise and Hearing Loss Prevention:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise/workplacesolutions/hcToolbox.html>

Trench Safety Awareness:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2006-133D/>

OSHA

Quick Cards (in both English and Spanish) focus on topics and solutions ranging from Chipper Machines to Rodents, Snakes & Insects, to West Nile Virus to Working Safety in Trenches: <http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/quickcards.html>

CMAA

As part of our Alliance with OSHA, CMAA has developed a series of Tool Box Talks including:

Toolbox Talks for Club Employees: Avoiding Heat Stress:

<http://www.cmaa.org/legislat/osha.asp>

Toolbox Talks for Club Employees: Ladder Safety:

<http://www.cmaa.org/legislat/osha.asp>

There are so many processes undertaken while maintaining the beauty of the facility that one must consider all the details that go into the job. Hopefully these links have offered additional information to help assure employees' tasks are completed safely.

For more information on how your club can benefit from the Alliance and OSHA topics specific to the club industry including archives of previous articles in this series, please visit <http://www.cmaa.org/legislat/osha.asp> or contact Melissa Low, director, Industry Resources and Legislative Services, at melissa.low@cmma.org or (703) 739-9500.

This article was written by club industry expert Alan Achatz, CCM, CHE, of AKA Capitol Adventures in conjunction with participants in the OSHA and CMAA Alliance. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor.