

from the sidelines

ISABEL PAYS A VISIT

When Hurricane Isabel and her subsequent tropical storm hit the East Coast in mid-September, turf took a beating from Newport News to Pittsburgh. The winds blew over a neighbor's tree onto his car; the trunk left behind was at least 3 feet in diameter. That's a big storm.

I asked some turf managers who work in Isabel's path how they and their fields fared:

Tim White, Director/Park Operations, Fairfax County, VA, says the Park Authority cancelled all events in the hurricane's wake. "Staff had removed all trash cans, benches and other items that could be tossed by the high winds. During and following the event, we were assisting state and local authorities removing downed trees from roads, as well as assisting with flooding problems, temporary shelters and other issues," says White.

"While damages to Park Authority properties are approaching \$1 million, the athletic fields received only minor fence damage. Most fields were only littered with branches and vegetative debris," he says. Crews had everything cleaned up and back in place by Monday.

"We have an emergency preparedness plan that was executed [well]. Pre-event meetings were critical for that. The Fairfax County Park Authority has responsibility for 22,000+ acres as well regional responsibility in the event of emergencies and disasters."

Nick Gammill, CSFM, American University, says, "Isabel only brought 1 3/4 inches of rain here. We cancelled all practices for the day as well as a scheduled game the day before. We could have played a game that afternoon because our sand based field can handle a lot of rain."

"Most of our resources went to removing fallen trees from around the campus. I did have some extra work cleaning up limbs and debris from our stadium seating but damage to the sports facility was minimal," he reports. "I prepared by tying down the goals and cleaning out drains."

In Charlottesville, Jimmy Rodgers, CSFM, University of Virginia, dodged a serious bullet. "We experienced 60+ mph winds but only 4 inches of rain. It could have been worse; the forecast called for 12 inches and sustained 80-mph winds.

"We did go forward with a baseball prospect camp 2 days after Isabel. We were able to play four baseball games with only 17 bags of Turface. No damage was done to the fields and/or our facilities. We had maybe 10 trees down. We came through okay," says Rodgers.



ERIC SCHRODER, EDITOR

Comments always welcome.
Call Eric at 717-805-4197,
email eschroder@aip.com, or write
PO Box 280, Dauphin, PA 17018.

SPORTSTURF

833 W. Jackson, 7th Floor Chicago, IL 60607
Ph: (312) 846-4600 Fax: (312) 846-4638
Web: <http://www.greenmediaonline.com>

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

president **BOB CAMPBELL**, CSFM
past president **MURRAY COOK**
president elect **MIKE TRIGG**, CSFM
commercial v.p. **MONTY MONTAGUE**
secretary **MIKE ANDRESEN**, CSFM
treasurer **TIM MOORE**, CSFM
sfma board members **ERIC ADKINS**, CSFM, **DR. TONY KOSKI**,
BOYD MONTGOMERY, CSFM, **ABBY MCNEAL**, CSFM,
GEORGE TRIVETT, CSFM, **VICKIE WALLACE**
executive director **STEVE TRUSTY**

STMA OFFICE

1027 SOUTH 3RD ST., COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51503
phone (800) 323-3875
email STMAHQ@st.omhcoxmail.com
website www.sportsturfmanager.com

INTEGRATED CONTENT TEAM

vice president/ group publisher **STEVE BRACKETT**
editor **ERIC SCHRODER**
senior editor **JOHN KMITTA**
technical editor **DR. JEFF KRANS**

PRODUCTION TEAM

art director **MAGGIE CIVIK**
production manager **GABRIELLE MOUIZERH**

ADAMS BUSINESS MEDIA

ceo **MARK ADAMS**
sr. v.p. h.r. & administration **MARGIE DAVIS**
director of internet operations **CHRIS CASAREZ**
it director **STEVE SMITH**
v.p., marketing svcs. group **LIZ SANTELLI**
director of circulation **JOANNE JUDA-PRAINITO**

DIRECT MAIL LIST SALES

EMILY ROGIER (830) 262-1403

READER SERVICE SERVICES

associate director of circulation & director of reader service
JOANNE JUDA-PRAINITO
readerservice@aip.com

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

phone: (847) 763-9565 fax: (847) 763-9569

REPRINTS

Fostereprints (800) 382-0808

Publisher's Notice: We assume no responsibility for the validity of claims in connection with items appearing in Sportsturf. Reader Service Numbers are given to facilitate further inquiry. Commercial product names are used for the convenience of the reader. Mention of a commercial product does not imply endorsement by Sportsturf or Adams Business Media, or preference over similar products not mentioned.

Adams
BUSINESS MEDIA

Sportsturf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION



SPORTSTURF • <http://www.greenmediaonline.com>