Can you identify this sports turf problem?

Problem: Brown square areas
Turfgrass Area: Little League baseball field
Location: Valley Center, CA (southern CA)
Grass Variety: Warm and cool season mixture

Answer to John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz on Page 31
The brown square areas are the result of tent damage. No, this is not a Boy Scout jamboree that overstayed its welcome. During the October 2007 Poomacha Fire in Southern California, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection occupied the Valley Center Parks and Recreation District’s headquarters office and 5 Little League baseball diamonds for 3 weeks. During that time, the firemen had pitched their tents on the athletic fields and front lawn area using almost the entire 9.5 acre park. The fire burned almost 50,000 acres and destroyed 138 homes and a business. After the fire crews went home, the damaged field areas were aerated and then manually seeded with annual and perennial rye; then hydro-seeded with a cool season mix. Fields were then closed down for 8 weeks to allow for growth. Cal Fire paid for the repairs.

Photo submitted by Douglas H. Johnsen, General Manager of Valley Center Parks & Recreation District, Valley Center, CA.

If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz please send it to John Mascaro, 1471 Capital Circle NW, Ste # 13, Tallahassee, FL 32303 call (850) 580-4026 or email to john@turf-tec.com. If your photograph is selected, you will receive full credit. All photos submitted will become property of SportsTurf magazine and the Sports Turf Managers Association.