

Safety InsightsSM

Safety & Risk Management News & Notes

Volume 3 – Issue #11, December 2009

Winter Driving - Many roads may be fine during normal conditions, but they can be dangerous when there is sleet, snow or ice on the roadway. Speed must be reduced. Some vehicles handle better in inclement weather conditions, but drivers must use caution. No matter what the roads are like or how good your vehicle is, it all comes down to trained drivers using caution and safe driving techniques. These and other ideas are available in [Winter Driving Tips](#) from the [transportation section](#) of the [Safe-Wise Online Resource Library](#).

The Nonprofit Risk Management Center's 2010 Webinar Series will begin on January 6, 2010 with a dynamic program on nonprofit boards. The title of the kick-off program in our year-long series is: House of Sand or Foundation of Stone: The Board of Directors/Trustees. During the webinar series opening session the Center's executive director will explore best practices and practical risk management strategies in the areas of board composition, board operations, inspiring a culture of candor ("culture of dissent") and more. For more information on the 2010 series, visit [here](#)

A well-written waiver, signed by an adult, will be upheld by courts in most states; this is the opinion of many sports attorneys. However, the legality of waivers signed by or on behalf of minors is not so clear-cut. A recent article from [Athletic Business Magazine](#) discusses how a waiver signed on behalf of a minor keeps a baseball school from being tagged with liability. Acceptable language for effective waivers varies from state to state, so any waiver must be reviewed by a local attorney familiar with this type of law. Safe-Wise maintains several [general risk transfer examples here](#).

Chemical handling mishaps involving chlorine have caused accidents at pools this past swim season. One mishap caused firefighters to evacuate a facility after the pool's chlorine generator overproduced. More on these incidents is provided in an article from [Aquatics International Magazine](#). Staff can help prevent these types of incidents that can lead to injuries by following [Safe Chemical Handling Practices](#).

The Climbing Wall Association recently reported that the company (MSA) which distributes the Redpoint Auto-Belay, in use at indoor climbing facilities, is issuing a recall. MSA issued a stop use notice in October, an update in November and intends to discontinue the **Redpoint Descender**. Read more [here](#).

Winter is upon us and [OSHA](#) is reminding those who work outside to take the necessary precautions to prevent cold-related injuries and illnesses. OSHA's "Cold Stress Pocket Card" ([English/Spanish](#)) provides recommendations on protecting workers in cold environments. More **Staff Safety** information can be found in the [Online Library](#).

The Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991 requires drivers of certain commercial motor vehicles to be in a drug testing program. The requires that drivers who transport passengers or property to be included in a regular program if the vehicle (1) has a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 pounds or over, including a towed unit with a gross vehicle weight of over 10,000 pounds, or (2) has a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or over; or (3) is designed to transport 16 or more passengers (including the driver) or (4) is of any size and is used in the transportation of materials found to be hazardous. This law may apply to nonprofit organizations that utilize busses and minibuses in their programs. Each organization should confirm how the law applies to them by contacting their State Division of Motor Vehicles. Learn more [here](#).

Learn more about these and other topics in the [Online Resource Library](#)

Safe-Wise offices will be closed from December 23rd until January 4th in recognition of Christmas and New Years. Staff will be available via email and cell phone on most non-holiday dates during that time. **Safe-Wise Consulting wishes you all a very joyous holiday time.**

This month's issue of *Safety Insights* is now available [Online](#).

Topics include:

- Winter Driving
- Nonprofit Board Training
- Waivers
- Chemical Handling
- Belay Device Recall
- Staff Safety
- Drug Testing for Bus Drivers
- Holiday Office Schedule

The following resources have been added to the [Online Library](#):

- [Considerations for Exit Diagrams](#)
- [Considerations for Sauna Operation](#)
- [Considerations for use of Bounce Houses](#)
- [Considerations for Youth Protection Statements](#)
- [Sample Risk Management Policy](#)
- [Sample Photo Release](#)
- [Lifeguard Pledge \(updated\)](#)



Forward this link to a colleague, volunteer or staff member so they can [sign up for the e-news](#)

Several updates have been made to our [Website](#):

Updated [Associate Staff](#) page – Welcome Gary Forster and John Pearson

[New Facility Resources Page](#) (more coming soon)

[New Programming Resources Page](#) (more coming soon)

See what [Our Clients Say](#)