



Volume 4 – Issue #4, April 2010

Screening Staff is part of Protecting Youth - Recent media coverage of a [US Swimming](#) coach's abuse conviction and concern over the organization's screening practices should make any youth-serving organization review what protection practices it has in place.

While US Swimming has been accused of having poor practices in place many other organizations may also rely on what many consider being weak protection strategies. When it comes to protecting youth there is no "silver bullet" and many strategies must be employed to protect youth from abuses.

As staff hiring season approaches for many summer programs, organizations should review their [screening practices](#). But remember screening is only part of the equation. A [comprehensive youth protection program](#) that includes strategies for training, supervision, regular communication and ongoing support all help protect youth, staff and the organization.

Raptor Trace is a soft-ware program that is used by YMCAs, schools and other youth-serving agencies across the country. The program can be used to screen visitors, employees and members. The screening consists of scanning by driver's license, other official identifications, full name, date of birth through public data bases by state; helping to identify possible sex offenders. More information about the program is available from the company's [Website](#).

2010 Risk Management & Finance Summit for Nonprofits

- The Nonprofit Risk Management Center will host its sixteenth annual conference this October 10-12 at the Loews Hotel in Philadelphia. Conference details will be announced in the weeks ahead. In the meantime, consider attending the [2010 Summit](#).

Interviewing Teenagers for Summer Jobs is the topic of a current article from [Athletic Business Magazine](#). Many sports and recreation organizations depend on the employment of teenagers to survive — especially during the busy summer months. And there's probably not a manager out there who doesn't have a horror story or two to tell about teen job performance. But managers can find out a lot about young job applicants (and perhaps even avoid additional nightmares) if they simply ask the right questions. Read the article [here](#).

CPSC Updates Virginia Graeme-Baker Act Ruling - After months of debate and public input, the [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) has finalized three previously unresolved aspects of the VGB Act. Last month, the agency established clear definitions of an unblockable drain, took action regarding further defining a commercial pool, and clarified model language for potential state laws. More information is available from [Aquatics International Magazine](#).

ACA's new book on developing Risk Management Plans -- [Risk and Crisis Management Planning](#) is a tool to help create the plans required by ACA accreditation standards so that you, your staff, and volunteers actively *reduce* and *manage* risk, and prepared for when a crisis strikes. Worksheets are included in the book and on a CD that cover *both* overall crisis and risk management of the organization, and also crisis and risk management of each individual program.

National Recreational Water Illness Prevention Week has been scheduled for May 24-30, 2010 by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The program's goal is to highlight the importance of healthy swimming, healthy swimming behaviors, and recreational water illness prevention. This will be done by emphasizing operation and prevention tips for pool operators and pool patrons to ensure a healthy swimming experience. Resources include: [Swimmer Protection](#), [Design and Operation Guidelines](#) and [Disinfection and Remediation Guidelines](#) from the [CDC](#).

Summer Aquatic Facility Preparations often include purchasing or renovating pool slides. Safe-Wise offers some items to consider:

1. Check into [state pool code](#), discuss with local officials as appropriate
2. Research possible products carefully
3. Consider contracting installation to certified pool contractor
4. Follow all manufacturers recommendations for installation and use; particularly the location of slide bottom (discharge) from pool's edge and depth of water beneath discharge
5. Swim Test all participants and allow use based on their ability
6. Always control the use with additional Lifeguard Staff (at least one, preferably two depending on size of slide)
7. Rope off area around discharge to ensure only slide users are in area

National Water Safety Month- Save Lives, Share Ideas and Get Connected - May is the 2010 National Water Safety Month and [the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals \(APSP\)](#) has the resources you need to promote safety in your area. Join the [National Water Safety Month group](#) to download resources and materials, watch the latest videos, share ideas on water safety promotion and learn about the 2010 National Water Safety Month activities. Consider holding a water safety event at your facility. Teaching community members to swim is an effective way to help prevent aquatic accidents and drownings.

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors! - Summer program preparation should include planning for outdoor safety during lightning season. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) sponsors **Lightning Safety Week** from June 20-26, 2010. NOAA offers [handouts](#), [indoor](#) safety and [outdoor](#) risk reduction tips, [medical facts](#), [history](#), [survivor stories](#), [photos](#), [teacher tools](#), [kids page](#) and [more](#) at their [Website](#).

Poseidon Computer-Aided Drowning Detection Systems are available as an effective risk management tool in aquatics environments; complementing Lifeguards' vigilance. Overhead and underwater cameras are the "eyes" of the system. The system analyzes swimmers' activities, determines when a swimmer is in trouble, tracks their trajectory and alerts the lifeguards as to the victim's location. If you can operate a cell phone, you can operate a Poseidon system. More information is available at the [Poseidon Website](#).

The YMCA Safety & Risk Management Discussion Board is available to YMCA staff and volunteers. The discussion board is moderated by Safe-Wise Consulting and offers an effective outlet for users to gain insight and information about risk management issues from their peers. The Board is available by [registration](#) in YMCA of the USA's online system.

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

The following resources have been updated in the [Online Library](#):

[12 Steps for Prevention of Recreational Water Illnesses](#)

[Cleaning Up Body Fluid Spills on Pool Surfaces](#)

[Considerations for Screening Employed and Volunteer Staff](#)

[Earthquake Planning Tips](#)

[Flammable/Combustible Liquid Storage Safety Guidelines](#)

[Statistics Surrounding Child Sexual Abuse](#)

[Use and Care for Personal Flotation Devices \(PFD\)](#)

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