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**Great nonprofit risk management training is coming soon.** The 2010 Risk Management and Finance Summit is scheduled for October in Philadelphia. The Summit is an annual opportunity for nonprofit leaders to come together for exceptional learning and networking. Visit the Summit [Webpage](#) for conference details. This year's Summit features several YMCA-specific workshops including: *Making Risk Management Part of Your Y*, featuring: John Flynn, YMCA of Philadelphia and Vicinity and *Youth Protection for Ys: Reviewing and Renewing Our Commitment to Youth*, featuring: LuAnn Aversa, YMCA of Hunterdon County, NJ.

**New tools are available for aquatic safety education.** The US Consumer Product Safety Commission has recently released a series of videos that can be used as training tools for staff, youth, parents and the community. Remember, the best way to prevent drownings is to teach people to swim and to educate them on good aquatic safety practices. Read more [HERE](#).

**It's time to reinvigorate safety and prepare for Fall.** The mid-summer offers fun, sun, heat and safety challenges. A safety lull by staff is common for summer programs in mid-summer. Leaders should take time to review and encourage good safety practices in all areas including aquatics, youth protection, supervision and transportation. Mid-summer also means that it is time to plan for the Fall program season. Proper preparation and adherence to the organization's policies and procedures are the keys to ensuring the safest possible environment and the best possible experience for program participants. Checkout a *Fall Safety Reminder* [HERE](#).

**A new drowning detection system is now available.** The Wahoo® Swim Monitor System (SMS) is an affordable, reliable and practical technology based drowning detection system for commercial aquatic facilities. It is designed to support aquatic staff by providing them with a critical layer of additional protection. The system discretely monitors the submersion time for each swimmer, and works in both clear and dark water environments. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Wahoo or [email](#) for information about their new Charter Member Program.

**Making effective accommodations for employees with disabilities** can be a challenge for many nonprofits. The US Department of Labor provides information on their [Website](#) that serves as an effective resource for employers. Phone numbers are also provided for discussing a particular situation and receiving suggestions and identifying alternatives for consideration. The resource helps to realize your commitment to an inclusive work environment.

**Rotating Lifeguards can be an effective management technique** to help in drowning prevention. Rotations can also be one of the most dangerous times for aquatic incidents. In [Changing of the Guards](#), a recent article from Aquatics International magazine, five steps for ensuring Lifeguard vigilance are reviewed. [Aquatics International](#) is available online and through mail to aquatic professionals, free of charge. More aquatic safety information is available in our [Online Resource Library](#).

**Cameras in your locker room can be a problem.** Policies banning cameras or video recorders from locker rooms are common in facilities. With the growth in common use of camera-equipped personal devices such as cell phones policy-making has become more of a challenge. While some allow use of electronic devices in lobby areas only; other facilities have dealt with the issue in other ways. Read more in [this article from Athletic Business magazine](#). [Considerations for Cell Phones in Facilities](#) is also available in our [Online Resource Library](#).

**Safe-Wise Consulting can be your resource for effective incident management.** Preparing for and reacting to incidents is an important part of your organizations risk management efforts. Safe-Wise has [resources](#) and expertise to assist you with both common and catastrophic challenges. We're only a phone call (866-919-9622) or an [email](#) away.

### **Notes from the field August 2010:**

**Swim Testing not part of all Camp's Safety Plans.** Recent visits to summer camps around the US suggests that many camps can strengthen their swim testing and swimmer management protocols. While use of "Buddy System" strategies such as Buddy Boards and Buddy Checks are common practice, some still do not swim-test all campers. All campers and staff should be tested as to their swim-ability prior to participation in any aquatic activity. Swimmers should be assigned a Buddy with similar abilities and should also have their participation restricted to appropriate activities based on their swim ability.

**Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders are common in health care facilities.** YMCA facilities have recently been informed of member's DNR orders and asked to honor them outside of medical facilities. "Out-of-hospital DNR orders" can have different legal footing. These orders are a form of living will that is acknowledged by a doctor and followed by the medical system. Doctors authenticate the patient's decision by issuing instructions to emergency, hospital, and other personnel not to resuscitate the patient. EMS personnel are generally trained to deal with this notification, however most first responders are not. To complicate things, regulations vary by state and training entities like the American Red Cross have no formal position on DNR orders for some levels of training. Thirty-nine states have legislation or regulation permitting the use of DNR orders outside a hospital. Federal law does not address the issue specifically. Your organization should prepare for these requests by reviewing your state's statutes and consulting your legal counsel, medical advisory professional and insurance company.

**Record heat continues to affect part of the US.** Prolonged or strenuous activity in hot environments can cause a range of ailments from discomfort to death. It's essential that staff members understand the risks and how to protect against them. Providing activity breaks, shade and plenty of water are some easy steps. More information is available in our Online Resource Library's [Heat Sickness Consideration](#) that discusses possible heat-related health hazards, how to avoid them, how to recognize them and how to cope with them if they occur.

**The use of emergency oxygen is a critical step in responding to incidents.**

Serious and life-threatening medical emergencies often cause oxygen to be depleted in the body leaving the victim at risk for cardiac arrest or brain damage. Many national organizations in the emergency services field suggest that the use of emergency oxygen is a critical step in treating a severe or life-threatening illness or injury. Unlike the medical version, emergency oxygen does not require a prescription. State and local regulations may differ and should be consulted before allowing staff to administer emergency oxygen. Read more [HERE](#).

The following resources have been updated or added to our [Online Resource Library](#):

[Considerations for the Safe Use of Golf Carts at Camp](#)  
[Parental Consent for Staff interaction with Youth outside of Programs](#)  
[Considerations for Driver Qualifications](#)  
[Emergency Planning Guide for Nonprofits](#)  
[Fall Program Safety Reminder](#)

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