Safety Insights^{SM}
Safety & Risk Management News & Notes

February 2016 | Volume 10 Issue 2.2

Managing swimmers is critical in the prevention of drownings. Organization and swimmer management can be challenging during group swim times; especially if the majority of the swimmers are youth. Heavy swimmer loads can create excessive surface agitation. This agitation coupled with glare can make bottom scanning very difficult and at times impossible. Dark water as found in lakes and ponds also adds to challenges for bottom scanning. Lifeguards need to be vigilant; actively scanning the pool, lake or pond while also enforcing the rules to ensure that nobody disappears below the surface and drowns. It is not enough to rely on vigilant lifeguards that actively scan their zones of coverage. Bather loads and conditions can inhibit effective scanning, particularly those as described above. Aquatic incidents can be silent, so organizations must look for additional strategies for swimmer management and accident prevention. The use of a Buddy System is a time-tested and effective swimmer management system that can help to prevent aquatic incidents. Read "Buddy System Guidelines for Group Swimming" in the Online Resource Library for more information.

Employers must post injury and illness summaries now. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reminds employers of their obligation to post a copy of OSHA's Form 300A, which summarizes job-related injuries and illnesses logged during 2015. The summary must be displayed in a common area where notices to employees are usually posted each year between February 1st and April 30th. Businesses with 10 or fewer employees and those in certain low-hazard industries, such as many non-profits, are exempt from the federal OSHA recordkeeping and posting requirements. However, as of January 2015some previously exempt businesses are now covered. The lists of both exempt and newly covered industries are available on OSHA's website. Visit OSHA's Recordkeeping Rule webpage for more information on recordkeeping requirements.

Learn about the Four Fundamental Risk Management Strategies for climbing walls. The Climbing Wall Association (CWA) has prepared a "White Paper" to help organizations better manage climbing wall risks. Author Bill Zimmerman writes: "There is a lot of discussion of "risk" and "risk management" in the climbing industry. However, when professionals are pressed to define what they mean by these terms, you're likely to get a bewildering array of definitions. I'll attempt to provide you with some relatively straightforward definitions and help you understand some of the fundamental strategies used to deal with risk in a recreational setting." Read more HERE.

Crafting a gun policy can be challenging for your organization. Laws and the popularity of carrying guns change over time. In recent months there have been significant changes in laws and practices in many states across the US. Banning guns from the workplace can be a method for meeting the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) general duty clause mandate for a safe work environment. However some laws restrict an organization's ability to ban or control guns on premises. Controlling guns in public places can be even more challenging for organizations depending on state laws, personal freedoms and the local climate of concealed carry. Steve Bates writes more about the employer human resource conundrum in an article from The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) HERE. Melanie Herman from the Nonprofit Risk Management Center (NRMC) discusses how to balance a firearm and weapons policy, your mission and laws HERE. While most non-profits ban firearms and weapons on premises it is important to review this practice to ensure it is legal as laws change and that practices such as sign posting requirements are met. This is not a topic that staff alone should develop a "policy" for, this is a topic that must be reviewed legal counsel and at the non-profit board level to ensure a true and lawful policy is in place. Once the policy has been developed it must be effectively communicated and regularly reviewed to ensure it is current with any changes in laws.

Did you see this in the last E-news:

Adopt a total ban on PED use while driving. In a recent article from the Nonprofit Risk Management Center (NRMC) Melanie Lockwood Herman discusses the idea of adopting a complete ban on the use of personal electronic devices (PEDs) while driving. This National Safety Council (NSC) explains the danger of PED use while driving in their Hands-Free is Not Risk-Free publication. PEDs include both handheld and hands-free devices, which are both incredibly dangerous and lead to about 26% of all car crashes. Implementing a "total ban" on the use of PEDs while driving won't necessarily be easy. But the good news is that you don't need to go it alone. The NSC developed a handy toolkit containing policy and communications tools to help you get underway. The kit includes tools for educating employees about the risks of hands-free and handheld phone use while driving, and tips for gaining staff buy-in. The NRMC invites you to reduce safety risks by joining nonprofit leaders in adopting a total ban on PED use while driving. JOIN HERE and remember to forward this to other nonprofit leaders. Read more about the risks of PED use while driving HERE.

Plan now to participate in National Child Abuse Prevention Month this April. The national effort and help you to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect and to encourage individuals and communities to support children and families. More about the about the history of the month and sample strategies for engaging communities and supporting families is available from the US Department of Health and Human Services. Events and activities can be tied into regular program efforts, parent meetings and community activities over the month of April.

<u>This Month's Topics:</u>

Swimmer Management
OSHA Reporting
Climbing Wall Safety
Firearms Policy
Distracted Driving
National Child Abuse Prevention Month