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**Is your aquatic facility ready for summer?** The busy summer swim season will soon be upon us and it's time for all aquatic leaders to be alert and prepared by orienting and regularly training seasonal lifeguard staff. Safe-Wise has again updated our annual summer aquatics preparation resource in order to help aquatic professionals prepare for a safe and enjoyable summer. Prepare for the summer cautiously and ensure that lifeguards are well prepared and vigilant with effective practices and procedures. Leaders must recognize that many youth who visit their pools may not have adequate swimming skills and should work to eliminate the risk of drowning for these children by swim-testing all swimmers, requiring specific protections for non-swimmers and offering swim instruction when possible. Read more [HERE](#).

**What are the effects of the gender identity debate on your organization?**

The debate about gender identity and who has the right to access which bathroom could be the next big issue facing the aquatics industry. Dana Robinson writes about how bathroom access has once again become a topic for political debate in an article from Aquatics International magazine ([AI](#)). Robinson writes: "For the first time since the civil rights movement of the 1950-60s, the issue of bathroom/locker room access has become a topic for political debate. This time, the discussion is not centered on skin color, but gender identity." Many organizations have already put in place practices to manage this topic. However opinions and regulations are changing. Robinson explores the topic in a three-part series of articles. She states: "The issue at hand is their (an individual's) ability to use the facilities that align with that gender. Certain states have wrestled with laws that address this issue, with some falling on the side of access and the others against. The issue also has generated several court cases initiated by both sides of the argument. The debate will continue and if your facility has not discussed how to respond you may be behind the times. Read more [HERE](#).

**Are you informed about the Zika virus?** An outbreak of Zika is spreading through Central and South America, Mexico, and parts of the Caribbean, including US territories. Though Zika currently isn't spreading on the mainland through mosquitoes—the main route of transmission of the virus—employers and workers should take steps to prevent or minimize the risk of Zika infection if transmission starts to occur. [Interim guidance](#) from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ([OSHA](#)) provides recommendations on protecting staff who may be at risk for Zika virus infection through on-the-job exposure to mosquitoes or the blood or other body fluids of infected individuals. Visit OSHA's [Zika Webpage](#) for more information.

**Springtime weather means the start of outdoor grilling season.** Outdoor events and programs often mean that nonprofit organization staff is “working the grill”. While some staff members may be safety conscious it should not be a foregone conclusion they are prepared for the potential pitfalls of gas grills; a little training and orientation goes a long way in preventing grilling incidents. LP gas/liquid propane and natural gas are flammable. Many accidents occur after the grill has been unused over a period of time or after a grill’s LP gas container has been refilled and reattached. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission ([CPSC](#)) suggests that before starting the grill there are several safety precautions to keep in mind. The CPSC has published [Gas Grill Safety Guidelines](#) to provide safety education to grill users. By following these guidelines staff will help to prevent injuries and possible gas explosions or fires. For those “old school” grillers using charcoal the National Fire Protection Association has published [Grilling Safety Tips](#). Additional program safety and fire prevention information is available in the [Online Resource Library](#).

**Did you see this in the last E-news:**

**Keep playgrounds fun with SUPER vision.** Every day at the playground can be fun because of active supervision and some basic safety tips. Providing a safe and age-appropriate playground is only part of the formula for preventing accidents and injuries. Shock-absorbing surfaces such as rubber, synthetic turf, sand, pea gravel, wood chips or mulch will help reduce the likelihood of injuries from falls. Active supervision by trained staff will help prevent many other issues. Playground supervision is as important as being a lifeguard around the pool. Many playground incidents, from simple accidents to behavioral issues, can be prevented when staff are engaged in providing SUPER vision on the playground. Safe Kids Worldwide ([SFW](#)) provides two good resources to help communicate practices to your staff: [Playground Safety Tips](#) and [Childhood Injury Fact Sheet](#). The National Parks and Recreation Association ([NPRA](#)) provides a [Staff Training Video](#) that can help reinforce good playground practices. More information is available from the [Online Resource Library](#) including the [Handbook for Public Playground Safety](#).

**Save the date!** The 2016 Risk Summit will be held from September 18 – 20, 2016 at the Hard Rock Hotel in Chicago. This two and a half day conference is ideal for nonprofit leaders who want to broaden their perspective on risk, learn practical strategies for identifying and managing risk, and bring risk resources and know-how back to their mission-driven organizations. If you’re interested in positioning the risk management function to truly fortify your mission and navigate around or through the “what ifs” of the nonprofit world, you won’t want to miss this event. Read more [HERE](#).

**This Month's Topics:**

*Summer Aquatic Safety*

*Gender Identity Policies*

*Zika Virus Information*

*Outdoor Grill Safety*

*Playground Safety*

*Risk Summit*