

Safety InsightsSM

Safety & Risk Management News & Notes

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Safe-Wise Consulting wishes you all the very best of Holiday seasons.

Please enjoy the time with your family, faith and optimism for the upcoming New Year. Our offices will be closed from 12/24 – 1/3 but your staff contact will be available via email. There will only be one issue of *Safety Insights* this month.

The Wahoo Swim Monitor System (SMS) is an effective aquatic safety tool. Wahoo monitors swimmers through the use of a swim-band that each swimmer in the pool wears. The swim-band has a microprocessor that measures the time a swimmer's head is submerged underwater. If the swim-band senses that the swimmer has been submerged too long, it transmits an emergency alert signal to the system, immediately alerting lifeguards and supervisors to a dangerous situation. Learn more [HERE](#).

OSHA Requires That Employers Ban Texting While Driving. Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, David Michaels, recently wrote an open letter to employers that states: "It is your responsibility and legal obligation to have a clear, unequivocal and enforced policy against texting while driving." This position is bolstered by OSHA's general duty clause that requires employers to provide for employee safety. Good practice suggests that organizations should have a [comprehensive transportation policy](#) that includes behavior expectations such as a ban on texting and other cell phone use while operating a vehicle.

Now is the time to prepare for the New Year's resolution rush. Many YMCAs and fitness facilities will see a significant increase in use due to the winter months and New Year's resolutions. While much of the increase in use may be attributed to members becoming more active; some can be attributed to new members or guests using the facilities. Taking the time to prepare can help prepare staff and prevent issues. Read more [HERE](#).

The use of waivers can be an effective risk transfer tool. While some will still suggest that waivers are "Not worth the paper they're written on"; court proceedings over the last few years suggests something different. A well written waiver can help an organization in certain circumstances. At the very least these types of documents can serve as a form of informed consent; educating users of inherent activity risks. Organizations should discuss the use of waivers with their legal counsel and risk manager. Safe-Wise is available to help implement the good use of waivers in your programs.

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

Topics include:

Holiday Wishes

Safe-Wise Holiday Schedules

Swimmer Monitor System

New Year Preparations

Use of Waivers

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