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**Protecting youth is critical for all youth-serving organizations;** there are few issues as important to consider when managing risks. Recent media coverage of incidents should encourage all organizations to review what they are doing to protect youth, staff and the organization. Organizations have the responsibility to ensure that all children in their care are both properly nurtured and safe. Child abuse causes harm to individuals, staff and the organization when it occurs. Sound risk management programs include procedures to prevent child abuse, protect youth in our care, protect staff from false accusations and educate families. Organizations can also serve the greater good by bringing, youth, families and the community in efforts to prevent abuse. Read more [HERE](#).

**More training is coming from the Nonprofit Risk Management Center in 2012.** Their [First Wednesdays Webinar Series](#) features twelve, 60-minute programs on topical risk issues. Learn about risk and decision-making, protecting your tax exempt status, financial due diligence, protecting vulnerable populations, human behavior and risk management, and more. The [Third Thursdays HR Webinar Series](#) features four, 90-minute programs on topical HR issues. Learn about managing workplace disputes, a multi-generational workforce, remote workers, and federal and state employment law updates.

**It is important for all organizations to plan for crisis** and how to communicate effectively during times of crisis. An effective crisis plan will help to manage risks, provide consistent accurate information and protect the image of the organization. An effective message during emergencies can help support staff, volunteers and constituents of the organization as well as being a great tool in an emergency. Read more [HERE](#) and in the Online Resource Library.

**Organizing a Fun Run or other Road Race is tough, managing safety can be tougher.** The Road Runners Club of America ([RRCA](#)) has published [Guidelines for Safe Events](#) to assist organizations in planning for a well-run and safe event. The RRCA is not a regulatory body and does sanction events. Risk management is one of the primary responsibilities of a race director and following the RRCA Guidelines will help ensure a safer event for the organization, volunteers and participants.

**Without proper training, lifeguards' CPR skills can get rusty.** CPR training is an essential component of any comprehensive lifeguard training program. However, even with quality comprehensive initial training, research indicates that CPR skills decline quickly. Read more from Aquatics International magazine [HERE](#).

### **Experience with a life-jacket-required policy demonstrates its importance.**

There is no way to guarantee a child will be safe in an aquatic environment. However, there are ways to decrease the risks associated with visiting a pool. Aquatics managers teach lifeguards how to respond when someone is in distress. Strong managers look at what can be done to prevent the situation from occurring in the first place. Read more from Aquatics International magazine [HERE](#).

**New ADA regulations will effect pools and recreational facilities.** Starting May 15, 2012, all public swimming pools in the US must be equipped with assisted entry systems as part of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. Wading pools, wave pools, leisure rivers and spas will also need to comply. These are only part of the new requirements for recreational facilities ranging from fishing piers to pools. Specific information about the requirements is available from [www.ADA.gov](http://www.ADA.gov). A hot line (800-514-0301) has also been established to help clarify the laws. Read more [HERE](#).

### **This Month's Topics:**

*Youth Protection*

*Training in 2012*

*Managing Crisis*

*Managing Special Event Risks*

*Lifeguard Training*

*Requiring the Use of PFDs*

*ADA regulation Update*