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**Is it time for Camp fire-safety?** Spring is here in many parts of the US and even where it has not fully been realized, staff are starting to prep Camp facilities for the busy summer season. This is a great time to think about fire safety. Tree trimming to form buffers around buildings, reposting exit plans, testing lighting, and alarms are all good ways to get folks thinking about fire safety. Maintenance staff should also look at how they use and store flammables. While it is always good to be thrifty, maybe some of the stuff that fills maintenance areas shelves can be disposed and should always be stored properly. Think about adding a detached storage area for gas powered equipment and fuel too. Look for more safety tips and information in the [Online Resource Library](#) and future issues of *Safety Insights*.

**The safety of pool and spa drain covers and the adequacy of testing procedures** used to determine the flow rating of these covers is currently being reviewed by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). The investigation has revealed that the testing protocols used by some laboratories may have been improper and, as a result, some covers certified by these laboratories may not comply with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGBA). Information on the manufacturers and model numbers in question is not currently available. The CPSC has scheduled a hearing for April 5, 2011, and more should be available then. Organizations should request written confirmation that their covers are in compliance with VGBA from contractors or suppliers involved with upgrades. Watch for more information on this topic in future issues of *Safety Insights* or visit The CPSC [Website](#).

**Risk communication is a broad topic** that may be defined and understood in various ways. In the Nonprofit Risk Management Center's book, [Ready...or Not: A Risk Management Guide for Nonprofit Executives](#), the following, two-part definition is provided: 1) the strategy and methods for communicating information about risk to key audiences; and 2) the approach to communicating information about and securing support for risk management strategies. A reminder to "lock up" before leaving the facility posted on a sign placed on the exit door is an example of (1) and (2). The sign serves as a subtle reminder about the downside risk of leaving a facility unlocked afterhours, and a simple reminder about "what to do" to minimize the risk of unauthorized entry. Examples of (2) include: a screening protocol for volunteers that is memorialized in a document outlining sequential steps; and a code of conduct for the board that is included in the board orientation packet, posted on the board's secure webpage, and distributed by email to prospective board members. Simple, clearly written policies represent one way to engage in risk communication. But don't limit your risk communication methods to written policies. To learn more please visit the Center's [Website](#).

**Drowning continues to be a leading cause of accidental death among the nation's youth.** This is especially true for youth that are considered "at-risk" swimmers. A 2008 University of Memphis study concluded that more than half of all black and Hispanic children are "at-risk" swimmers. Aquatic professionals know that the best way to prevent drowning is to teach people to swim. USA Swimming's Make a Splash program is an effort to help prevent drowning through education. Read more [HERE](#).

**Chain saw safety is an important topic to cover with staff** as they prepare facilities for summer programs. As with any power tool, operating a chain saw can be inherently hazardous. However, potential injuries can be minimized by using proper personal protective equipment and safe operating procedures. Organizations should train staff to ensure they take proper safety precautions before use, during use and when refueling all gas powered equipment. Read more [HERE](#).

**May is Water Safety Month.** Resources for safe swimming and proper pool use are available from the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (ASPS) and can be used this May during National Water Safety Month. Read more [HERE](#).

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

*Fire Safety for Camps*

*More on the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act*

*Risk Communication*

*Preventing Drowning*

*Chain Saw Safety*

*Water Safety Month*