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**ACA Standard HR4B is now a Mandatory Standard.** The [American Camp Association](#) (ACA) has revised its standard on background screening of staff. Standard HR4B has become mandatory effective for 2011. Whether you are an ACA accredited program or not, criminal background screening is best practice. While the standard does not dictate how or what check should be used, Safe-Wise recommends that background checks should be conducted on a national basis and include a social security number verification and address confirmation. For more screening information read our [Considerations for Screening Employed and Volunteer Staff](#) in the [Online Resource Library](#). The ACA offers an online training program that can help programs understand the options available when performing criminal background checks; [Criminal Background Checks - Dispelling the Myths and Confronting the Realities](#) is available to both ACA members and non-members.

**USDA Food and Nutrition Service Webinar: Summer Food Service Program.** Food service to children over the summer months is an important topic. Many youth do not have access to food programs they normally enjoy in school, over the summer months. Learn more about how your summer program might be able to support youth and participate in this program by visiting this [Website](#).

**Climbing Wall Instructor Certification Program now available.** The goal of the certification program is to establish to a voluntary set of standards for technical skills and instruction and to train instructors worldwide. The certification standards represent a consensus view of the minimum qualifications necessary for climbing wall instructors. The program has been designed to be integrated into existing staff training programs in a cost effective manner. The program has been developed by the industry leading Climbing Wall Association (CWA). The CWA is a non-profit, industry trade association with the mission to support the growth, health and independence of the climbing wall industry and to promote the sport of climbing. More information on the program and a schedule of courses is available on the CWA [HERE](#).

**Best Practices for Boating, Fishing and Aquatic Resources Stewardship** is a downloadable resource specially geared to making trainers and their programs more effective and safe. Created in 2000 for state fish and wildlife agency aquatic educators, *Best Practices* represents the best knowledge available for program planning, development and implementation, professional development, program evaluation and educational program research about teaching boating, fishing and stewardship of aquatic resources. The resource is filled with step-by-step guidance and easy-to-use tools for teaching and inspiring kids and program safety. Download this free resource [HERE](#).

**The Bloodborne Pathogens section of the Online Resource Library has been updated.** Safe-Wise Consulting regularly updates its resources. Recently all resources related to Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) trainings and programs have been updated. The resources include BBP Plan Checklist, BBP Fact Sheet, BBP Model Plan and the BBP Summary. BBP planning and training are mandatory practices for OSHA compliance for most employers. For more information and access to these resources please visit the *Staff Safety* section of the [Online Resource Library](#).

**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:**

*Background Screening for Camps*  
*Food Service Programs*  
*Climbing Wall Training*  
*Best Practices for Boating and Fishing*  
*Bloodborne Pathogen Program Resources*  
*Water Safety Month*