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**Wildfire preparation and prevention is an important part of your emergency planning for summer.** While sometimes caused by lightning, 90% of wildfires are caused by humans. Many wildfires can be prevented and the impact on your property can be reduced through sound preparations. Emergency plans should be designed for evacuations if your organization offers programming in a possible wildfire area. There currently is no way to forecast wildfire outbreaks, so it is critically important to plan ahead and remove potential hazards. Because wildfire can change direction and speed suddenly, a minor threat can quickly escalate into a major threat. More information on prevention and preparation can be found at the National Fire Protection Association's [Firewise Communities](#) program, the Federal Emergency Management Agency ([FEMA](#)) and the American Red Cross ([ARC](#)).

**Risk Management is “Common Sense”** is a concept recently discussed by Melanie Lockwood Herman from the Nonprofit Risk Management Center. In her monthly e-news article Herman says: “I’ve agreed with this assessment on countless occasions. I’ve also shared my view that moving beyond the limited view of individual experience—by tapping into the perspectives of a diverse group of stakeholders—is the best way to form a clearer picture of risk in nonprofit life.” Read more [HERE](#).

**It’s Better to Miss One Game than the Whole Season** according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)). The CDC has developed the [Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports](#) initiative to offer information about concussions and to help ensure the health and safety of young athletes. The *Heads Up* initiative provides important information on preventing, recognizing, and responding to a concussion for coaches, parents and athletes. A concussion is an injury that changes how the cells in the brain normally work. The potential for concussions is greatest in athletic environments where collisions are common. Concussions can occur, however in any organized or unorganized sport or recreational activity. As many as 3.8 million sports and recreation related concussions occur in the United States each year.

**Waivers can be an effective risk transfer tool.** However, for a court to uphold a waiver, it must be written properly. A properly constructed waiver (or exculpatory clause) must inform the party giving up his or her legal rights of the risks involved in membership or participation in activities and also show that the decision to enter into the agreement was made voluntarily, intelligently and with the full knowledge of its legal consequences. A recent article in [Athletic Business](#) magazine is a good illustration of the analysis used by the courts to determine if a waiver or exculpatory clause is enforceable. Waivers can protect an organization provided the waiver is well-written and properly administered.

### **Bedbugs continue to be a problem for some residence operations.**

Entomologists and pest-control experts expect the problem to grow this summer as temperatures rise and vacationers increase traffic in hotels, camps and other transient facilities. Jeffrey White, an entomologist with BedBug Central in NJ here's from organizations looking to prepare for problems; "They understand that it's inevitable at this point," White said. "There's really no true prevention for bedbugs other than education." Read more [HERE](#) and in the [Safety Insights Archive](#).

### **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](#).

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

*Wildfire Season*

*Risk Management*

*Preventing Heads Injuries in Youth Sports*

*Effective Waivers*

*Bed Bugs*

*Bloodborne Pathogen Program Resources*