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**The voluntary recall of approximately 1 million pool/spa drain covers has been announced** by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

According to the CPSC, the recalled drain covers were incorrectly rated by independent third party laboratories to handle the flow of water through the cover as specified by the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. The recall has been made in cooperation with a number of drain cover manufacturers. The action will affect “hundreds of thousands of pools,” said Scott Wolfson, CPSC public affairs director. Owners and operators should review information from the CPSC and contact their service professionals to decide how the recall may affect their facilities. Read more [HERE](#).

**Many myths about lightning abound;** “Lightning never strikes the same place twice”, “I’m safe from lightning if it is not cloudy or raining”, “Rubber car tires protect you from lightning” or “I’m safe from lightning if I’m inside”. The fact is all of these statements are false. Summertime is lightning season and organizations must make account for this in their emergency and operational planning. Staff should be trained to be proactive when weather changes and know how to protect people from danger. Preparing to close pools (indoor and outdoor) and waterfronts is especially important. More information on preparing for lightning season is available in the [Online Resource Library](#) with [Lighting Safety Guidelines for Pools](#) and [Lightning Safety Tips](#).

**Controlling the access and appearance of social networking pages** is discussed in “8 Ways to Fortify Facebook Security” by Mark W. Smith from the Detroit Free Press and published recently in USA Today. Smith writes: “As Facebook becomes the window to the Web for its more than 500 million users, the security of the social network has never been a hotter topic. While it can be hard to make a Facebook account completely hack-proof, you can do a lot.” The article then discusses how to control who can access an individual’s page. This is particularly important to discuss with young summer staff that may allow open access to their Internet presence. This openness can sometimes violate an organization’s social networking policy or at least cause youth protection and public relation concerns for an organization. Read more in the [USA Today article](#).

**Lifeguard Link is a new resource for lifeguards and aquatic staff ideas.**

[Aquatics International](#) magazine has created this resource as a “go-to” guide for lifeguards. The Website includes information on key lifeguarding topics, latest trends and training tips. Read more [HERE](#).

### **Many nonprofit organization vehicular accidents occur while backing up.**

Backing up is always a challenge because you cannot see everything behind your vehicle. Drivers should avoid backing up whenever they can and always look to do so when no passengers are on the vehicle. It is a good idea to park vehicles so that they can be pulled forward when leaving. A few simple steps can help to prevent accidents when backing-up; these include: review your path prior to movement, back up slowly using the mirrors and use a spotter whenever possible. The use of safety precautions such as audible warning devices can also help to prevent accidents. More information on transportation safety is available in the [Online Resource Library](#).

### **Water slides, play structures and spray features are the trend in newer aquatic centers**

and the aquatic industry in general. These features may present new challenges to experienced aquatic facility operators such as YMCAs, JCCs and others. Design, safety and operational guidelines come from the amusement industry and organizations like ASTM International (formerly the American Society for Testing Materials). Manufacturers and also some states have produced operational safety guidelines and/or requirements. Some credentialing bodies that specialize in water park safety exist but the larger lifeguarding industry is just beginning to address the need for lifeguards with specialized water park type training. Two of the largest certifying bodies, YMCA of the USA and the American Red Cross, now have water park lifeguard credentials but trained guards may be difficult to find at this time. Read more in [Considerations for Water Slide Operations](#) from the [Online Resource Library](#).

### **Sun and heat can be stressful on staff and participants when outdoors.**

Overexposure to the sun can damage the skin and heat related illness such as stroke, exhaustion and cramps are possible when working or playing outdoors. Some tips to combat the downside of the sun are to keep hydrated with water, wear sunglasses and sunscreen, rest in the shade regularly and wear appropriate clothing. More information on protecting yourself outdoors is available in the [Online Resource Library](#) with resources such as the [Heat Stress Fact Sheet](#) and [Sun Protection Facts](#).

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

*Drain Cover Recall*

*Lightning Safety*

*Social Networking*

*Lifeguard Resources*

*Backing up Safely*

*Water Slide Operations*

*Sun and Heat Protection*