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**Youth protection (abuse prevention) is a critical issue** associated with the operations of a youth-serving 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. As the busy summer program season approaches organizations must make plans to ensure every possible strategy is employed to protect youth in their care. Sound youth protection procedures are discussed in the new [\*Safety Reminder\*](#).

**Bounce house perils and accidents** are explored in a recent article from [Athletic Business Magazine](#). This popular amusement device and other inflatables such as the “Moonwalk” can be great fun, but needs to be managed effectively to prevent injuries. More is available from the Online Resource Library in [Considerations for use of Bounce Houses](#).

**SwimSafeID neck bands** offer a simple and highly visible way for lifeguards to know who belongs in the deep-end or swimmer zone at a glance. Based on tested swimming competence, swimmers wear the allocated color breakaway bands around the neck. This allows for easy spotting of any swimmer’s skill level while in the pool or lake. Samples are available upon request; learn more [Here](#).

**Recreational waterborne illnesses have been on the rise** in recent summers and your organization should be prepared to protect, patrons, staff and your reputation from this type of public health incident. More information on controlling illnesses in pools is available [Here](#).

**Summer is lightning season**, help prepare by reviewing and following these [Lightning Safety Tips](#).

**Summer is tick season**, help protect youth and staff with this [Lyme Disease Fact Sheet](#).

**Disaster and emergency planning guide is now available for YMCAs**. The recent tornadoes in Alabama, Missouri and Massachusetts are stark reminders of the potentially devastating impact of natural disasters. In times of crisis, many communities count on YMCAs for help. Y-USA has revised “Ready to Respond: A Guide to Assist Your YMCA’s Disaster and Emergency Planning,” which is available on the [YMCA Exchange](#) home page. The guide covers planning and collaboration, communication, securing operations, safety, services and facilities. YMCAs are encouraged use the guide as a resource to develop or refine disaster response plans.

**New Aquatic Safety Guidelines have been released by the YMCA of the USA.**

The revised guidelines are intended to be a foundation for each organization's aquatic safety efforts. The revised guidelines are available [Here](#). A Webinar that gives a brief overview of the revised guidelines: [Here](#).

**This Month's Topics:**

*Youth Protection*

*Bounce House Safety*

*Swim Bands*

*Recreational Waterborne Illnesses*

*Lightning Safety Tips*

*Lyme Disease Prevention*

*Disaster Planning for YMCAs*

*New YMCA Aquatic Safety Guidelines*