

August 2011 | Volume 5 Issue 8.2

Waivers are an effective risk-management tool. While they are not all created equally; a well written waiver that has been properly enacted can help your organization manage risks. Waivers must be appropriate to the activity and written in terms that are recognized in the state where the waiver is used. More about waivers can be found in the [Online Resource Library](#) and in [this article](#) from [Recreation Management](#) magazine.

Liability can cut both ways when it comes to Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). The courts have witnessed lawsuits involving fitness facilities for both *having* a flawed AED program and for *not having* an AED at all. Recently, [a hotel executive did not survive cardiac arrest](#) in a Washington D.C. fitness club where the club's AED is reported to have had dead/expired batteries. The answer to mitigating liability (not to mention saving lives!) is to ensure that your AED Program includes regular practice, equipment maintenance and staff training. CardioReady offers comprehensive AED program support and services for organizations. More information about CardioReady is available [HERE](#).

The most critical skills for a lifeguard are those that prevent accidents. While rescue and resuscitation skills are extremely important, scanning skills used in victim recognition are the primary function of the lifeguard. Lifeguards must be constantly vigilant and attentive. Lifeguards may appear to be actively scanning but tests continue to show that less than 10 percent of lifeguards would identify a submerged object within 10 seconds. Safe-Wise Consulting provides workshop training presentations that focus on the critical behaviors that encourage a high level of vigilance and aquatic safety. Workshops focus on strategies to improve victim recognition, vigilance capacity, management functions, lifeguard supervision, lifeguard training, drills and scanning strategies. Contact [Safe-Wise Consulting](#) for more information about onsite aquatic safety training. An "*Effective Lifeguard*" training presentation is also available [online](#).

The new school-year reminds us to provide driver safety training. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ([NHTSA](#)) is committed to reducing school bus-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities through both behavioral programs and vehicle regulations. NHTSA works to educate bus drivers, students, and others about safe behavior that reduces the risk of vehicular incidents. More information about their programs and an in-service training series is available at their [Website](#). Check with [Safe-Wise Consulting](#) for more information about onsite or online driver training programs.

Keeping up with the weather can help prevent incidents. When it comes to weather related emergencies the “Five Ps” apply; proper preparation prevents poor performance. [NOAA Weather Radio](#) can help organization remain current with weather alerts. However, radio is not always the best way to communicate this important information. [iMap Weather Radio](#) is a newer option available for mobile devices and computers. iMap can bring the weather alert system to you. Information about emergency preparedness is available in the [Online Resource Library](#).

Soccer goal safety continues to be an issue for many communities. The state of Illinois recently enacted a [Soccer Goal Safety Law](#) aimed at preventing movable soccer goals from tipping over and causing death or injury. [Soccer goals should be securely anchored](#) to fields during use and stored in a manner to prevent tipping and accidently injury when not in use. Programs may consider [Goal Alert](#) to help prevent soccer goal injuries.

This Month's Topics:

Use of Waivers

AED Program

Lifeguard Training

Driver Training

Weather Alerts

Soccer Goal Safety