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**Ladder safety is always important.** Refreshing safety practices can help prevent accidents as staff prepares facilities for seasonal changes and winter. Before making a climb it's essential to know and follow safe work practices in selecting, inspecting, and setting up a ladder. *Ladder Safety Tips* is available in the [Online Resource Library](#).

**The leading cause of death during winter storms is transportation accidents.** Preparing your vehicle for the winter season and knowing how to react if stranded or lost on the road are the keys to safe winter driving. Safety techniques such as reduced speeds, increased following distances and leaving extra time for trips can help staff prepare for inclement weather. Vehicles should be thoroughly inspected and items such as brakes, batteries, defrosters, wipers and cooling systems should be maintained. Make sure that tires have adequate tread, All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. However, some jurisdictions require that to drive on their roads, vehicles must be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs. Vehicles should be equipped with a windshield scraper, a small broom for ice and snow removal and a winter emergency kit. Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season. More information about planning for weather and transportation can be found in the [Online Library](#).

**October is National Fire Prevention Month** and is a great time to make fire prevention a topic all around your organization. Safety training [refreshers](#) for staff, [emergency procedure](#) review, [exit route planning](#), activities for children and [emergency drills](#) can be tied into the theme and strengthen your facility's level of preparedness. For more information on fire prevention activity ideas contact your local fire department to foster a strong relationship or look [HERE](#).

**Observe 2011 Drive Safely Work Week October 3-7!** The Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS) has partnered with the U.S. Department of Transportation to offer a free downloadable, comprehensive toolkit to help organizations address distracted driving. The toolkit, available in both English and Spanish, can be downloaded from the [NETS Web site](#). The theme of this year's campaign is "Focus360°...Getting there safely is everyone's business."

**There are four policies every nonprofit needs** according to the National Council of Nonprofits. Their recent e-news offers: "Every time we see a headline questioning the salary of a nonprofit leader we think about four policies that every nonprofit should have in place. Spending a little time at a board meeting ensuring that all board and staff members understand these key policies can help avoid a negative headline that hurts the entire nonprofit sector as much as the individual nonprofit. Save the headlines for good news about your organization!" Read more [HERE](#).

**A record number of drownings were recorded in several states** during the 2011 summer pool season. A recent survey indicates Americans' ability to swim remains distressingly low. Now experts are looking at what more can be done to turn both those stats around. Better lifeguard training and supervision, swimmer management techniques, technologies and swim instruction are suggested as strategies to help reduce drowning. More is discussed in the "[Summer Drownings Spur Call to Action](#)" article from [Aquatics International](#) magazine. Additional aquatic safety information is available in the [Online Resource Library](#).

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

*Ladder Safety*

*Winter Driving Preparation*

*Fire Prevention in October*

*Drive Safely Resources*

*Four Policies for Every Nonprofit*

*Drownings are Up – What to do?*