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**The date for ADA pool entry compliance has been extended.** Attorney General Eric Holder has extended the date for compliance with the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design as it relates to the provision of accessible entry and exit to existing swimming pools, wading pools, and spas for a period of 60 days. The Attorney General also signed a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) seeking public comment on whether a longer period of time would be appropriate to allow pool owners and operators to meet their compliance obligations. Specifically, the NPRM proposes a 180-day extension of the deadline. Comments on the NPRM will be accepted for 15 days after publication in the Federal Register. Read more [HERE](#).

**It's time for a playground inspection!** It is estimated that there are over 150,000 injuries annually on playgrounds that required emergency room treatment according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission ([CPSC](#)). There were nearly 220,000 children treated in emergency departments for injuries in 2009 alone according to [Safe Kids USA](#). Organizations can create a safer playground environment for all children and contribute to the reduction of playground-related incidents by following guidelines set forth in the [Handbook for Public Playground Safety](#). Playground equipment guidelines and standards have been developed by the CPSC and the [American Society for Testing and Materials \(ASTM\)](#). The CPSC has also issued voluntary guidelines for the drawstrings of children's upper outerwear garments, such as jackets and sweatshirts. The guidelines help to prevent strangulation from the neck drawstrings and entanglement of the waist drawstrings. Children are at risk from strangulation when drawstrings on clothing become entangled in playground equipment. Additional [Playground Safety Publications](#) are available from the CPSC.

**When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!** Summer program preparation should include planning for outdoor safety during lightning season. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) sponsors [Lightning Safety Week](#) from June 24-30, 2012. NOAA offers handouts, indoor safety and outdoor risk reduction tips, teacher tools, kids page and more at their [Website](#). Additional [Safety Tips](#) are available from the National Weather Service or in the [Online Resource Library](#).

**OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard has been updated.** Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis has announced a final rule updating OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (HCS). The revised standard will align with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals to better protect workers from hazardous chemicals and help American businesses compete in a global economy. "Exposure to hazardous chemicals is one of the most serious dangers facing American workers today," Solis said. "Revising OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard will improve the quality, consistency and clarity of hazard information that workers receive, making it safer for workers to do their jobs and easier for employers to stay competitive in the global marketplace." The revised Hazard Communication Standard will be fully implemented in 2016. The harmonized standard will classify chemicals according to their health and physical hazards, and establish consistent labels and safety data sheets for all chemicals made in the United States or imported from abroad. Read more [HERE](#).

**Spring means baseball for many people and safety in youth programs is important.** Baseball is one of the most popular US sports. The rates of injury for baseball and softball are relatively low compared to other sports, but the degree of injury severity is relatively high. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently revised its policy statement on youth [Baseball and Softball](#). The AAP recommends prevention of throwing injuries by instructing kids on proper throwing mechanics, training and conditioning, and encouraging athletes to stop playing and seek treatment when signs of [overuse injuries](#) arise. Additional AAP recommendations include the use of protective gear, [eye protection](#), helmets, coach's emergency training and preparing for thunderstorms and lightning. Read more [HERE](#). Additional baseball safety information is available from Little League International through their [Safety Awareness Program](#).

**Stop Bullying Now is an effective resource for bullying prevention programs.** From high-school and middle-school youth activists, to community organizations and after-school programs, the Stop Bullying Now! Activities Guide has something for everyone. Activities can be adapted for most group, programs and communities. The goal of the program is to spread the word about bullying prevention and for youth to have fun doing it. Read more [HERE](#).

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

*ADA Compliance*  
*Playground Inspection*  
*Lightning Safety*  
*Hazard Communication*  
*Baseball Safety*  
*Bullying Prevention*