

May 2012 | Volume 6 Issue 5.2

Distracted driving contributes to 24% of accidents. The National Safety Council ([NSC](#)) estimates that 24 percent of all motor vehicle crashes involve cell phone use. Employers across the country have realized the dangers of cell phone use while driving and are taking actions to implement comprehensive cell phone policies. The National Safety Council recommends policies include both hands-free and handheld devices and cover all employees. Organizations are encouraged to use the free [NSC Cell Phone Policy Kit](#). A sample [Distracted Driver statement](#) is available in the [Online Resource Library](#).

Lifeguards use a "Turtle" in emergencies. The Safety Turtle is a wireless alarm system that is used in many aquatic facilities to activate the aquatic emergency plan. "The Turtle factors greatly into a one-guard situation, where help is needed to provide aid, call 911, handle crowd control, et cetera," said Linda Butkus, vice president of operations and COO, YMCA of Greater Omaha. The effective device, when placed on a rescue tube, activates a pool alarm (thus alerting others) when it goes into the pool. Read more [HERE](#). The Safety Turtle system is available from [Terrapin Communications](#) and can be adapted to most aquatic facilities in a cost effective manner.

Would You Sign a Contract You Haven't Read? That is the question asked by Melanie Lockwood Herman in the nonprofit Risk Management Center's recent e-newsletter. Herman writes: "Few days pass when I'm not asked to sign a contract. Whether it's a form granting permission to record a workshop, or a "click through agreement" I must complete to sit in the exit row on an outbound flight, pages of contract language appear before this lawyer on a regular basis. On many occasions when I'm rushing to find the signature line, I stop to remind myself of something I once heard my mother tell an anesthesiologist: "My daughter would NEVER sign a contract she hasn't read." Considering that most nonprofit leaders are presented with contracts regularly, you may want to read more [HERE](#).

Water, rest and shade can help your staff do their job this summer. Heat-related illnesses can affect your programs by slowing or hurting staff and participants. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration ([OSHA](#)) has kicked off a national outreach initiative to educate workers and their employers about the hazards of working outdoors in the heat and steps needed to prevent heat-related illnesses. OSHA's 2012 [Heat Illness Prevention Campaign](#) builds on last year's successful summer campaign. For outdoor workers, 'water, rest and shade' are three words that can make the difference between life and death," Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis said. "If employers take reasonable precautions, and look out for their workers, we can beat the heat." While OSHA's efforts focus on workers, the information can be very useful for organizations that offer summer youth programs as they look to provide a safe, fun summer for youth. Read more [HERE](#).

Disease outbreak at a summer camp highlights ways to stay healthy. For many children, summer means spending weeks or months at camp. Though summer camp can be a great place for kids or young adults to learn new skills, make friends, and participate in outdoor activities, camp can also provide the perfect environment for spreading germs. A 2009 outbreak at a camp in North Carolina involved 46 people sick with a disease called cryptosporidiosis. Read more on the incident and how to prevent it [HERE](#).

Keep track of the weather this summer. The National Weather Service ([NWS](#)), the US government's premier Website on weather, weather news and safety, offers "Weather on the go!" The service offers local weather information and alerts for [cell phones](#) and other [wireless devices](#). These services provide basic low bandwidth access to NWS products, including watches and warnings, zone forecasts, low and high resolution radar and satellite images, surface observations, marine forecasts and most other NWS text products. Read more [HERE](#).

This Month's Topics:

Distracted Driving Prevention
Effective Aquatic Emergency Practice
Understanding Contracts
Heat Illness Prevention
Camp Health Practices
Weather Alerts