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**New information helps prevent aquatic problems.** A new training course and handbook from the National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF) intends to help aquatic facility professionals understand and prevent illnesses, with the goal of ensuring safer swimming for pool-goers. The Recreational Water Illnesses (RWIs) online training course and handbook will help pool operators and managers gain a comprehensive and detailed understanding about the control of RWIs. These illnesses are caused by microscopic organisms and are spread by swallowing, breathing or having contact with contaminated water in swimming pools, hot tubs, water parks and other aquatic venues. RWIs can cause a wide variety of symptoms, including gastrointestinal, skin, ear, respiratory, eye, neurologic and wound infections. Read more [HERE](#).

**Make sure your staff are defensive drivers by providing good training** and having a transportation plan in place. Take time to refresh good driving habit with three basic techniques for defensive driving and accident prevention:

The two-second rule: Drivers should stay at least two seconds behind the driver in front. In bad weather, add more time. Better yet, use three seconds, especially in traffic and when loaded with passengers.

Remember to pass safely: Follow the rules of the road such as looking for a broken yellow lines and check to see if any traffic is coming toward you. Do not pass unless you can see far enough ahead. And if you are being passed, slow down if the other vehicle needs extra room to pass you safely.

Keep cool and alert in traffic: Organizations should support their drivers by ensuring other supervision is on every vehicle to help manage passenger behavior.

Navigating through heavy traffic is both hazardous and stressful. Drivers need to free form distractions in the vehicle so they can react quickly.

Good driving training helps staff refresh their defensive driving techniques, emergency plans and discusses problem areas such as intersections, parking lots and of course backing vehicles. More information on transportation safety is available in the [Online Resource Library](#).

**Playgrounds are an important program element for many youth-serving organizations.** Even during the busy summer program season preparations begin for the fall. Playgrounds and facilities should be inspected for safety and security. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) publishes [Guidelines for Public Playground Safety](#), which can assist staff in properly reviewing their playground facilities to ensure the safety of participants.

**There is still time to attend the 2012 Risk management Summit!** Over 250 attendees and industry-leading faculty will gather at the Chicago Hard Rock Hotel to discuss risk management topics ranging from youth protection to enterprise risk management to technology. [Look here for full program details](#), including information on our expert and keynote presentations.

**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](#).

**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.

**This Month's Topics:**

Recreational Water Illnesses  
Defensive Driving  
Playground Inspections  
Risk Management Summit  
Critical Lifeguard Skills  
Use of Waivers