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26,000 fingers are amputated or broken in door accidents every year according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission ([CPSC](#)). A study published by the American College of Emergency Physicians states that children younger than 5 years had the highest rate of finger amputations treated in hospital emergency rooms. Almost 75% of these amputations in young children resulted from their finger(s) getting caught, jammed, or crushed in a doorway during the opening or closing of a door. Youth-serving organizations and child care centers should review their facilities to see if these injuries can be prevented. Many organizations have found that the installation of products such as [Pinch-Not](#) and [Fingersafe](#) door safety products can help keep small fingers safe.

Staying safe during hurricane season takes planning. As seasonal storms continue to bring adverse weather conditions the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ([OSHA](#)) has educational materials for those in affected parts of the country. Visit OSHA's Safety and Health Topics pages to learn about [Flood](#) and [Hurricane](#) Preparedness and Response.

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.

A safety culture is an essential element of an effective organization. A safety culture is reflected by the commitment of personnel to safety at all levels of the organization. The key elements of a safety culture are: organizational & management commitment, training, the physical environment, staff involvement, effective communication, performance management and personal accountability. The safety culture is achieved over time, continually grows and must be nurtured through evaluation and information. The guidance of the safety culture at an organization can be lead by a [safety committee](#). More information about safety is available on the [Online Resource Library](#).

An increase in West Nile virus infections has been reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)). West Nile virus is a potentially serious illness transmitted to humans through mosquito bites. Employees and volunteers that work outdoors are at risk. Learn about preventing infection with OSHA's West Nile Virus [Fact Sheet](#) (PDF*) and [QuickCard](#) (PDF*) and visit the CDC's [Fight the Bite!](#) Website for additional resources and frequent updates.

Playgrounds are an important program element for many youth-serving organizations. As the busy summer program season winds down and preparations begin for the fall, 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 play ground facilities to ensure the safety of participants.

This Month's Topics:

Finger Safety
Hurricane Season
Driver Training
Creating a Safety Culture
West Nile Virus
Playground Inspections