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Planning for the New Year is important. Melanie Lockwood Herman discusses some timely ideas in a recent e-news article from the [Nonprofit Risk Management Center](#). Herman discusses reading about “96 Lessons for 2013” and how she gleaned five pertinent nuggets of wisdom from the list that may provide lessons for enlightened risk leadership in the New Year. Read more [HERE](#).

Emergency drills are an effective technique for preparing for stressful situations and ensuring that crises are handled effectively. Many organizations have reduced the injuries and chaos that can accompany an emergency because they have been prepared through their drill program. Drills should be run at least every quarter, including a full evacuation drill at least twice a year. The best times to run an evacuation drill are when the weather permits, but allows enough time to pass where people will need the training; every October and April works well. In some areas, such as child care, the department is required by the local jurisdiction to run evacuation drills every month. Winter months are better times for conducting scenario-based drills and reviewing emergency procedures at departmental meetings. More information on conducting drills is available [HERE](#).

There is less than a month left before the deadline to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Though the ADA was passed in 1990, the standards specific to pools and spas, found in the ADA Accessibility Guidelines, weren't released until 2010. Under the law, new pools and spas completed after March 15, 2011 must comply. For those in existence before that date, the original compliance deadline was March 15, 2012. However, after some confusion as to the interpretation of certain aspects of the law, the deadline was extended to Jan. 31, 2013. The most challenging aspect of the changes for many has been the accessibility regulations. They state that a commercial pool or spa must have at least one means of access for the disabled, and vessels with a perimeter measuring more than 300 linear feet are required to have a second method. Read more [HERE](#) in Pool and Spa News.

Plan now to participate in National Child Abuse Prevention Month this April. The national effort and help you to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect and to encourage individuals and communities to support children and families. More about the about the history of the month and sample strategies for engaging communities and supporting families is available from the [US Department of Health and Human Services](#). Events and activities can be tied into regular program efforts, parent meetings and community activities over the month of April.

Winter driving can be hazardous; especially in northern regions that get a lot of snow and ice. Additional preparations can help make a trip safer, or help staff deal with an emergency. The information that can help to prevent motor vehicle incidents due to winter storms is available in the Online Resource Library; they include [Winter Driving Tips](#), [Bus Safety Rules](#) and the [Vehicle Safety Checklist](#).

Protecting your back is an important accident prevention issue. One out of every five workers in this country who is hurt and off the job for a day or more has a back problem. One out of every five workers who becomes disabled because of a work-related injury is the victim of a problem back. Nonprofits are not immune to these realities. Because of this, it's important for organizations to encourage practices that will keep their staff's backs healthy and strong. Winter months include challenges with lifting heavy loads, [shoveling snow](#) and other stressful activities. Back injury prevention should be part of an initial [Staff Safety Orientation](#) and then followed by regular position specific training on [Proper Lifting](#).

This Month's Topics:

Planning for 2013
Emergency Drills
ADA Deadline Nears
National Child Abuse Prevention Month
Winter Driving Safety
Back Injury Prevention