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**Webinar about Accessible Playground Surfaces is scheduled.** The [US Access Board](#) will provide a webinar on October 3 from 2:30 – 4:00 (ET) that will discuss accessible surfaces for playgrounds. In this session, Board staff and a representative from the National Center on Accessibility ([NCA](#)) will present results from a recently completed study on playground surfaces that assessed how well various types of surface systems, including engineered wood fiber, poured in place rubber, and rubber tiles, perform over time. NCA conducted this research with funding from the Board. For more information, including registration instructions, visit [HERE](#).

**Study Finds Surge in 'Distracted Walking' Incidents.** Multitasking while walking may not be a good idea, according to Professor Jack Nusar of The Ohio State University. Nusar's research reveals that more than 1,500 people were treated in emergency rooms in 2010 for injuries related to using a cell phone while walking. This is a trend that has been called "distracted walking." Nusar believes the numbers will rise. While being able to multitask is usually considered a productivity booster, that's not the case when the activities include walking and a mobile device. And while employee injuries are a concern more so is the concern that some staff are not providing the attention that their position requires. Childcare workers, drivers, lifeguards and other positions should simply leave their phone in their pocket, turn it off or store it away from their attention. Certainly some emergency communication may be required but that should be the exception not the rule. Consider discussing "no cell phone" use during staff training and encourage your organization to set a culture of reducing both injury and staff inattentiveness. Read some ideas for managers [HERE](#).

**There is a Solution to High Chloramine Levels in Indoor Pools.** If you have an indoor pool and use chlorine, you have chloramines. Chloramines are a by-product of a chemical reaction between hypochlorous acid and ammonia. Chloramines can wreak havoc on mechanical equipment as well as the structure of a facility. Chloramines can also have potential effects on the allergic and respiratory health of swimmers and aquatic facility staff. According to YMCA of the USA Property Management there is a new technology that appears to be promising in combating chloramines and improving air quality. Developed and brought to market by Paddock Pools, is the [Paddock Evacuator™](#) system. The Evacuator™ is an exhaust system that targets the point of source of the chloramines at the water level. The Evacuator™ system captures chloramines at the pool surface and deck levels and removes them from the pool. Read more [HERE](#).

**Employed and volunteer staff is at the heart** of many nonprofit organizations. Ensuring their safety and preventing injuries should be part of your organization's culture. Developing this culture does not happen by chance, it must be part of an ongoing safety effort. Your efforts toward safety should include key components of a safety program such as leadership, orientation and training on job hazards. These components of a strong safety program are part of creating your organization's culture of safety. Read more [HERE](#).

**There are great resources for teaching Online Safety.** [NSTeens](#) was created by the safety experts at [NetSmartz® Workshop](#), a program of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children ([NCMEC](#)). NSTeens resources empower tweens (children ages 8 - 12) to make safer online choices through lessons taught in a series of animated videos highlighting the Internet-related adventures of a diverse cast of teenagers. Educators may reinforce the videos' safety lessons through the use of accompanying activity cards. The site also houses NetSmartz's Real-Life Stories videos---a series of narratives from teens about real experiences of online victimization. Each of the videos is accompanied by an activity card to facilitate student discussion and understanding. These materials are suggested for youths ages 11-17. All resources on [NSTeens](#) are free and offered in both English and Spanish.

**Concern for their children's safety is heightened** as children look forward Halloween. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children ([NCMEC](#)) has released a list of safety tips designed to help parents better protect their children during Halloween. The list includes well-known tips for child safety, such as wearing bright clothing while trick or treating, but also focuses on the threat of victimization on an evening when millions of children may be out in unfamiliar settings. "Safety tips are a guide for parents to follow while their children are trick or treating," said Ernie Allen, NCMEC's president. "However, we would also like to take this time to remind parents that they need to be vigilant in protecting their children and teaching them how to avoid potentially dangerous situations throughout the year. An estimated one in five girls, and one in ten boys, will be sexually victimized before reaching adulthood. We urge parents to learn more about prevention and detection of victimization by visiting our [Website](#)" he continued. Get the safety tips [HERE](#).

**This Month's Topics:**

*[Accessible Playgrounds](#)*

*[Turn Off Cell Phones](#)*

*[Improve Indoor Pool Air Quality](#)*

*[Staff Safety](#)*

*[Online Safety](#)*

*[Halloween Safety Tips](#)*