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**STOP MRSA Now is committed to reducing the spread of MRSA** through education and practical prevention steps. MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) is a type of Staph bacteria found on the skin and in the nose that is resistant to antibiotics. More than 90,000 Americans get potentially deadly MRSA infections every year and in 2005, nearly 19,000 Americans died from MRSA infections. More deaths are linked to MRSA infections than AIDS. There are two known types of MRSA. Healthcare-Associated (HA-MRSA), which occurs in hospitals and nursing homes, and a newer type of MRSA is Community-Associated (CA-MRSA), which has recently begun to spread in public settings like gyms, locker rooms, households and schools. MRSA can be easily spread through skin-to-skin contact and by touching contaminated items. This is why it is crucial to take measures to help reduce the spread of MRSA. Read more [HERE](#).

**OSHA consultants respond to 30,000 annual requests** to provide free and confidential advice to small- and medium-sized businesses committed to improving workplace safety and health. The service is separate from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's ([OSHA](#)) enforcement and does not result in penalties or citations. The consultants are experts in identifying workplace hazards and making recommendations to eliminate them. The process starts with a phone call, e-mail, or request. The employer is expected to correct any serious, unsafe, or unhealthful working conditions discovered by the consultant within a reasonable time frame. In rare instances, the consultant may find an "imminent danger" situation during the walk-through. If so, the employer must take immediate action to protect all employees. Find out more about OSHA consultation [HERE](#).

**A good social media policy provides clear guidelines** on what staff should do when posting and interacting with others. Andrea Berry and Ben Stuart share some guidance on developing a policy for your organization in their article from [TechSoup](#). As nonprofits turn to social media, policies to govern their use have become the new frontier. A good social media policy provides clear guidelines as to what staff should and shouldn't do when posting and interacting with the community. A good social media campaign or engagement strategy can help your organization fulfill its mission. There are many examples of nonprofits using these tools successfully for everything from fundraising and volunteer recruitment to building awareness on sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. But there are also examples of organizations that have encountered pitfalls along the way to an effective social media presence. By developing a policy that provides guidelines for how and when to use social media, you can save staff time, improve the effectiveness of your efforts, and limit the risk of other potential problems before they arise. Read more [HERE](#). A sample policy is also available in the [Online Resource Library](#).

**Expanded ClimbSmart!® public awareness campaign is announced** by the Climbing Wall Association ([CWA](#)). Industry growth, new technology, and different types of climbing offered in modern climbing facilities have led to the need for updated risk management resources. After several months of development, the program has been expanded from a single resource to include four posters and an introductory climber awareness video. The four new posters address auto belay awareness, bouldering safety, belay technique, and a general warning. The ClimbSmart!® program is a national public awareness campaign addressing the elements of risk in climbing sports, climber education, proper equipment use, and personal responsibility. The posters have been distributed free of charge to CWA members and are available for non-members to purchase at CWA's [Website](#). The video is available for free viewing and download at the [Website](#).

**The case of the exploding exercise ball** could be the name of Jeffrey Long's article in the October 2013 issue of Athletic Business Magazine ([ABM](#)). Long discusses his experience with litigation in "To Avoid Lawsuits, Health Clubs Must Heed Equipment Life Expectancy". He writes: "Operating a sports facility carries many risks, some of which are unavoidable, but reducing or eliminating risks where possible can result in your facility avoiding lawsuits. The plaintiff in this case was lifting two 40-pound dumbbells above his chest while resting his upper back on top of an exercise ball. The ball, which had been purchased from a well-known equipment manufacturer, split down the side and instantly deflated. The plaintiff tumbled to the floor, injuring his wrists and back in the process. Although his injuries were not life-threatening and were easily treated, the plaintiff filed a lawsuit against the health club, as well as the exercise ball manufacturer and distributor, seeking more than \$5 million in damages". Read more [HERE](#). Information on the safe use of Fitness Balls is available in the [Online Resource Library](#).

**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](#).