Safety Insights℠
Safety & Risk Management News & Notes

February 2013 | Volume 7 Issue 2.1

Parkour programs can be popular and safe. Less than two minutes into the opening scene of 2006's *Casino Royale*, James Bond is chasing a bad guy through a construction site in Madagascar, racing across beams high above the ground, climbing steel cables and leaping from cranes. The scene not only introduced Daniel Craig as the new 007, it sparked a renewed fascination with Parkour. Emily Attwood discusses trends and considerations for this type of programming in *Parkour Is Finding a Foothold in United States* from Athletic Business Magazine. Also known as free running, Parkour is, most simply put, a way of moving. The sport has become popular in some areas and can be an effective fitness discipline when well managed and organized. Read more HERE.

Checking references can be an art when considering employee and volunteer candidates. In Voodoo Reference Checking b*y* Melanie Lockwood Herman of the Nonprofit Risk Center Herman discusses thinking outside the box when entering into the routine practice of reference checking. The article discusses common complaints about checking references as well as several common myths about using this technique to obtain background information on candidates. Harman concludes by encouraging organizations to utilize this invaluable screening tool in researching the appropriateness of staff candidates. For additional tips on checking references, including the most important questions to ask references for key positions in a nonprofit, look into the NRMC's Webinar: Reference Checking on February 6, 2013.

Preventing Bullying is discussed in this week's Blog from Safe-Wise Consulting. Over half, about 56 percent, of all students are exposed to bullying on a regular basis at school according to the National Crime Prevention Council. This week's Blog offers ideas on how organizations can look at youth protection in broad terms. The Safe-Wise Consulting Blog is published weekly and provides first-person commentary of risk management issues organizations face on a regular basis. Sign-up for notifications of new postings HERE.

Standing for long periods of time or sitting at a desk all day can take a toll on your neck. Workplace injuries are not limited to only physically active and maintenance workers. Workers with more stationary responsibilities should take time throughout the day to stretch or for a break. Simple neck stretches can help to prevent or reduce stiffness and pain.

Information on protecting staff when working in winter conditions is available on the Winter Storms webpage from the Occupation Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The webpage provides guidance on how employers and workers can recognize snow storm-related hazards and the necessary steps that employers must take to keep workers safe while working in these conditions. The page includes guidance for workers clearing heavy snow in front of workplaces and workers traveling on icy roads. The Winter Storms webpage includes links to guidance from OSHA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the American Red Cross, the National Weather Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Safety Council and other agencies and organizations. More information is also available in the Online Resource Library.

There are specialized work-related health and safety issues for nurses, paramedics and similar health care professionals at camps, clinics and other nonprofits program centers. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has launched a new webpage that provides information, resources and links to assist organizations and staff protect themselves. Topics on the webpage include evaluating occupational exposures, OSHA requirements for recordkeeping and medical records, and setting up a safe health facility. Read more HERE.

This Month's Topics:

Parkour Programs
Reference Checking
Bullying Prevention
Neck Stretches
Winter Staff Safety
Health Clinic Safety