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It's Hard to Talk about Child Abuse. In a recent e-news article by Erin Gloeckner and Melanie Lockwood Herman from the [Nonprofit Risk Management Center](#), outline why organizations have to take on this difficult discussion. They write: "Child sexual abuse is so repulsive, that it is truly difficult to talk about. It is painful to admit that any person would harm a child in such a vulgar, intimate way. The sad truth is that we need to talk more about child abuse in order to prevent it. To protect the children and youth that we serve, we need to talk, reflect and take action." This information is particularly timely as we move toward National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April (see below) and the busy summer youth program season. Read more [HERE](#).

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The US Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau has resources targeted specifically for service providers who work with parents, other caregivers, and children with the common goal of strengthening families. Their [Website](#) provides resources to promote community awareness of important protective factors that can help families protect children from the risk of child abuse and neglect, including tip sheets for parents in English and Spanish. These resources were developed with input from numerous national organizations, federal partners, and parents committed to strengthening families. YMCAs can use this information as a great way to include youth protection activities in **YMCA Healthy Kid's Day**.

Is your Exposure Control Plan adequate? Does your organization have an Exposure Control Plan? Most organizations are required by the Occupational Safety and Health Act ([OSHA](#)) to implement a Bloodborne Pathogens program that includes developing an Exposure Control plan. While resources are readily available to assist in the development of your plan, reviewing staff functions and protections at your organization must be done with site specific items in mind. Safe-Wise discusses some common challenges in this month's [Safety Blog](#). More information is also available in the [Online Resource Library](#) and from [OSHA](#).

It's time to review your Camp security. According to the US Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)), the incidence of violent crimes committed against and by children and youth continues to rise in America. This alarming data has youth-serving organizations on full alert and continually reviewing and increasing their security measures. As a resource for your organization — especially camps — the American Camp Association ([ACA](#)) suggests that you consider your assets and vulnerabilities; visitor policies; pathways to and from your location; the probability of a dangerous occurrence; and your operational, cultural, and building code constraints. The ACA has published a camp security resource; [Download](#) a copy of this information.

Technology can help protect swimmers from aquatic incidents. The Wahooo Swim Monitor System (SMS) is an aid to lifeguards in both pool and dark water locations. Designed with the help of leading aquatic safety experts, the SMS is an affordable and proven technology that tracks each swimmer wearing sensors, worn as either lightweight headbands or attached to swim goggles. SMS is not a replacement for lifeguards but simply an additional level of protection that has been shown to be effective in aiding aquatic supervision. Read more [HERE](#).

Operating indoor climbing facilities can be challenging. However, two new publications from the Climbing Wall Association ([CWA](#)) can help make those challenges more manageable. The publications address successful business planning and the development of visitor agreements, respectively. *Climbing Gym Business Plan Creation, First Edition* addresses necessary business and financial planning by outlining the development of an effective business plan for climbing gyms. *A Guide to Visitor Agreements* provides a framework for risk transfer by addressing the concepts of negligence, duty of care, the elements of visitor agreements, and the protections these agreements can afford climbing facilities. Read more [HERE](#).

This Month's Topics:

Preventing Child Abuse
Child Abuse Prevention Month
Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control
Camp Security
Aquatic Safety Technology
Indoor Climbing Gym Resources