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Recreational Water Illness (RWI) Prevention is an issue all year long. With the onset of the busy summer swim season it is very important to review prevention strategies as thousands of swimmers head to outdoor pools. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) provides leadership and resources in preventing the outbreak of RWI. Some resources provide an outline of simple steps swimmers and pool operators can take to ensure a healthy and safe swimming experience for everyone. Training, prevention practices and communication are key strategies in preventing RWI. More information is available [HERE](#).

It's time for a playground inspection! It is estimated that there are over 150,000 injuries annually on playgrounds that required emergency room treatment according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission ([CPSC](#)). There were nearly 220,000 children treated in emergency departments for injuries in 2009 alone according to [Safe Kids USA](#). Organizations can create a safer playground environment for all children and contribute to the reduction of playground-related incidents by following guidelines set forth in the [Handbook for Public Playground Safety](#). Playground equipment guidelines and standards have been developed by the CPSC and the [American Society for Testing and Materials](#) (ASTM). The CPSC has also issued voluntary guidelines for the drawstrings of children's upper outerwear garments, such as jackets and sweatshirts. The guidelines help to prevent strangulation from the neck drawstrings and entanglement of the waist drawstrings. Children are at risk from strangulation when drawstrings on clothing become entangled in playground equipment. Additional [Playground Safety Publications](#) are available from the CPSC.

Driving in the mountains has its challenges including driver fatigue and extra wear and tear on vehicles. Organizations should consider what needs management techniques should be implemented to help address the unique challenges of this type of driving. Vehicle maintenance and safety checks should be reviewed and conducted prior to trips. Reviewing weather forecasts and reducing fatigue are important considerations for these trips as well. Drivers should be trained in proper practices and driving strategies to reduce the frequency of incidents. Read more [HERE](#).

Hazard Communication training must be conducted by Dec. 1, 2013.

OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard is now aligned with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). This update to the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) provides a common and coherent approach to classifying chemicals and communicating hazard information on labels and safety data sheets. The first deadline in the implementation phase is Dec. 1, 2013, the date by which employers must train workers on the new label elements and safety data sheet. OSHA has prepared a number of additional materials that explain the new changes to the [requirements of the HCS](#), including information on [material data sheets](#) and samples of [labels](#) and [pictograms](#). These and other materials are available on OSHA's [Hazard Communications page](#).

Best Practices Workbook for Boating, Fishing and Aquatic Resources Stewardship

is a downloadable resource specially geared to making trainers and their programs more effective and safe. Created in 2000 for state fish and wildlife agency aquatic educators, *Best Practices* represents the best knowledge available for program planning, development and implementation, professional development, program evaluation and educational program research about teaching boating, fishing and stewardship of aquatic resources. The resource is filled with step-by-step guidance and easy-to-use tools for teaching and inspiring kids and program safety. Download this free resource [HERE](#).

This Month's Topics:

Recreational Waterborne Illness Prevention
Playground Inspections
Mountain driving Considerations
The New Hazard Communication Standard
Best Practices for Boating