

May 2013 | Volume 7 Issue 5.2

The busy summer swim season is upon us; many aquatic venues will see high rates of use over the summer weeks. It's time for all aquatic leaders to be alert and prepared by orienting and regularly training seasonal lifeguard staff. Safe-Wise has produced an updated version of our annual summer aquatics preparation resource, *Summer Aquatic Safety Reminder*. The document will help aquatic professionals prepare for a safe and enjoyable summer swim season. Remember to prepare for the summer cautiously and ensure that lifeguards are well prepared and vigilant, through the implementation of effective practices and procedures. Leaders must recognize that many youth who visit their pools may not have adequate swimming skills. Operators should work to eliminate the risk of drowning for these children by swim-testing all swimmers, requiring specific protections for non-swimmers before they enter the water, and offering swim instruction when possible. Read more [HERE](#).

Water, rest and shade can help your staff do their job this summer. Heat-related illnesses can affect your programs by slowing or hurting staff and participants. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration ([OSHA](#)) has kicked off a national outreach initiative to educate workers and their employers about the hazards of working outdoors in the heat and steps needed to prevent heat-related illnesses. OSHA's [Heat Illness Prevention Campaign](#) builds on last year's successful summer campaign. According to OSHA, for outdoor workers, 'water, rest and shade' are three words that can make the difference between life and death. "If employers take reasonable precautions, and look out for their workers, we can beat the heat." While OSHA's efforts focus on workers, the information can be very useful for organizations that offer summer youth programs as they look to provide a safe, fun summer for youth. Read more [HERE](#).

Managing Special Even Risks: Ten Steps to Safety, published by the Nonprofit Risk Management Center ([NRMCC](#)), is an easy to read guide that offers insight on the risks that arise when nonprofit organizations sponsor or host special events. From events held on property owned by the nonprofit to trips to distant locations involving youthful participants, this guide covers a wide range of topics that will help leaders increase the safety of their special events. Subjects covered in the second edition include goal setting, the identification and evaluation of risks, risk sharing, emergency procedures, event documentation, and working with the media. Checklists and forms are included. To read an excerpt, please click [HERE](#).

Keep track of the weather this summer. The National Weather Service ([NWS](#)), the US government's premier Website on weather, weather news and safety, offers "Weather on the go!" The service offers local weather information and alerts for [cell phones](#) and other [wireless devices](#). These services provide basic low bandwidth access to NWS products, including watches and warnings, zone forecasts, low and high resolution radar and satellite images, surface observations, marine forecasts and most other NWS text products. Read more [HERE](#).

Wildfire preparation and prevention is an important part of your emergency planning for summer. While sometimes caused by lightning, 90% of wildfires are caused by humans. Many wildfires can be prevented and the impact on your property can be reduced through sound preparations. Emergency plans should be designed for evacuations if your organization offers programming in a possible wildfire area. There currently is no way to forecast wildfire outbreaks, so it is critically important to plan ahead and remove potential hazards. Because wildfire can change direction and speed suddenly, a minor threat can quickly escalate into a major threat. More information on prevention and preparation can be found at the National Fire Protection Association's [Firewise Communities](#) program, the Federal Emergency Management Agency ([FEMA](#)), the American Red Cross ([ARC](#)) and in "*Considerations for Wild Fire Season Preparations*", available at the Safe-Wise Online Resource Library.

Risk SUMMIT will convene in Boston. The 2013 Risk SUMMIT will convene this August 25-27, 2013 in Boston, MA. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this annual gathering of nonprofit and insurance industry professionals dedicated to best-in-class risk management. We will bring back a few favorite features of past SUMMITS, and introduce a few others. Loyal attendee pricing and online booking at the conference venue will be available next week. In the meantime, we want to express our deep thanks for the companies that have already signed on as Corporate Sponsors of the conference. Read more [HERE](#).

This Month's Topics:

Summer Aquatic Safety

Heat Illness Prevention

Managing Special Event Risks

Weather Tracking

Wildfire Preparations

Risk Management Summit for Nonprofits