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**Aquatic Safety Alert System Installed.** YMCA and other aquatic venues all over the US have installed alert and alarm systems to assist in aquatic emergencies. The Safety Turtle system is a popular choice because of its ease of installation, adaptability to various facilities, cost effectiveness and simple functioning. While there are many testimonials to alert systems a recent article from the Le Mars Daily Sentinel clearly shows how and why such systems can be effective and an important part of any organization's emergency planning. Read more [HERE](#).

**Oh baby its cold outside!** Winter weather creates a variety of hazards that can significantly impact everyday tasks and work activities. These hazards include slippery roads/surfaces, strong winds and environmental cold. Learning how to prepare for work during the winter, protect workers from the cold and other hazards that can cause illnesses, injuries, or fatalities, is essential to maintaining a safe work environment and completing tasks successfully. Although the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) does not have a specific standard that covers working in the cold, under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act) of 1970, employers have a duty to protect workers from recognized hazards, including cold stress hazards, that are causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm in the workplace. Visit OSHA's cold weather resource page [HERE](#) to find information for helping employees protect themselves from the negative effects of winter weather.

**Safety Eyewear: It's Not Just for Adults Anymore.** It's a new year, a time for changing over notebooks, getting into a new schedule, auditions for the school play and tryouts for sports teams. But homework isn't the only problem your kids face now that school is back in session after a holiday break: Experts warn that school can bring an increased risk of eye injuries from sports. Eye injuries are the leading cause of blindness in children in the United States, and most eye injuries in school-age children occur while playing sports, according to the National Institutes of Health. Some 100,000 sports eye injuries occur each year, with children making up nearly half of the cases. Read more [HERE](#).

**The Weather outside has been frightful.** Erin Gloeckner of the Nonprofit Risk Management Center (NRMC) reports that shivering at work is not delightful. She writes: "Here in Leesburg, VA, we are experiencing bone-deep cold weather and shocking gusts of wind. Though weather is part of our unpredictable, uncontrollable context, we can resolve to be better prepared for cold weather conditions." Weather exposures affect client and employee safety, insurance coverage needs, and workplace policy requirements. Gloeckner recommends a number of tips you can implement to dress your nonprofit in protective cold weather gear. Read more [HERE](#).

### **Recording and Reporting Occupational Injury and Illness Requirements.**

The Occupational Safety and Health Act ([OSHA](#)) requires employers to record and report Occupational Injury and Illnesses. Most nonprofits are exempt from keeping OSHA injury and illness records unless they are asked in writing to do so by OSHA, the Bureau of Labor Statistics ([BLS](#)), or a state agency operating under the authority of OSHA or the BLS. This exemption does not excuse any organization from coverage by OSHA or from compliance with all applicable safety and health standards (which may include other types of record keeping requirements). All employers are required to post an Annual Summary of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for the previous calendar year. The summary must be posted no later than February 1 and must remain in place until March 1. OSHA Form No. 300A is used to meet this requirement. Each year BLS selects about 280,000 firms to take part in a survey used to calculate the job injury and illness rates for various industries nationwide. All employers selected for the survey are required by law to participate. Read more [HERE](#).

**Ladder Safety App Available.** Falls are a persistent hazard found in all occupational settings. A fall can occur during the simple acts of walking or climbing a ladder to change a light fixture or as a result of a complex series of events affecting an ironworker 80 feet above the ground. According to the 2009 data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 605 workers were killed and an estimated 212,760 workers were seriously injured by falls to the same or lower level. The National Institute for Occupational safety and Health ([NIOSH](#)), part of OSHA, has developed a smart phone App to help employees with ladder use. The app features a multimodal indicator and a graphic-oriented guide for ladder selection, inspection, positioning, accessorizing, and safe use. The App is available for both [iOS devices](#) and [Android devices](#). Read more [HERE](#).

### **This Month's Topics:**

*Aquatic Emergency Alarm System*  
*Cold Weather Employee Protection*  
*Safety Eyewear for Youth Sports*  
*Dressing Your Organization for the Cold*  
*Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements*  
*Ladder Safety Information*