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Teach children about personal safety. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children ([NCMEC](#)) has worked with the child safety experts who created the popular online safety website, [NetSmartz](#), to develop the new [KidSmartz](#) program. This program can be used to educate children and their parents about preventing abduction and also empowers them to practice safer behaviors. Youth leaders can encourage "[The 4 Rules of Personal Safety](#)" and utilize the available resources such as: personal safety age-specific lesson plans; tips and safety checklists for parents; games and animated videos. Visit the KidSmartz Website for more information and to download the [KidSmartz Education Kit](#).

Drain covers have been recalled due to an entrapment hazard. The Consumer Product Safety Commission ([CPSC](#)) has recalled several thousand drain covers from Waterway Plastics for a suction entrapment hazard. The recalled drain covers were incorrectly rated to handle the flow of water through the cover, which could pose a possible entrapment hazard to swimmers and bathers. Pool operator's that are using this brand of drain cover or are unsure of their drain cover's manufacturer should immediately take steps to ensure these devices are replaced. Read more [HERE](#).

New guidance on selecting playground surfaces is now available from the US Access Board ([the Board](#)). [Seven Things Every Playground Owner Should Know About the Accessibility of Their Playground Surfaces](#) has been developed by the National Center on Accessibility ([NCA](#)) with funding from the Board. The document outlines key considerations and steps in selecting, installing, and maintaining playground surfaces to ensure accessibility and compliance with accessibility standards, including those issued under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA). Read more [HERE](#).

Learn the Five Tips for Ladder Safety for use in your climbing facility. The Climbing Wall Association ([CWA](#)) *Lines Newsletter* recently published guidance for ladder safety in their October issue. From route setting to rescues and general maintenance, ladders are widely used in climbing facilities. Many ladder safety recommendations and regulations (primarily from OSHA) are common sense measures, but it is always a good idea to re-examine your practices and see where you can improve or become compliant. Read more [HERE](#) to learn the safety tips and to access other resources.

Did you see this in the last E-news:

Proper cleaning of fitness equipment protects patrons and the equipment. Keeping fitness facilities clean, including exercise equipment, helps to keep equipment in good working order and also can help the spread of communicable disease. There are many different methods for cleaning equipment, education about the best ways to keep equipment clean is important before selecting a method. Read more [HERE](#).

A pool UV System can help with water and air quality. For indoor aquatic facilities, there are no two bigger concerns than air and water quality. Left unmanaged, substantial harm can be done to both equipment and patrons. One defense is an industrial UV system that will control chloramines and, as a bonus, disinfect chlorine-resistant pathogens. Ultraviolet (UV) light provides a non-chemical, environmentally friendly treatment option for indoor pools and spas. Most microorganisms, even cryptosporidium and giardia, are inactivated in less than a second by relatively low doses of UV light. Additionally, UV will break down organic and inorganic pollutants in water. This is particularly true in the swimming pool industry, where a significant reduction in combined chlorine, known as chloramines, can be achieved. Read more [HERE](#).

This Month's Topics:

Youth Personal Safety
Pool Drain Cover Recall
Playground Surfaces
Ladder Safety for Climbing Programs
Cleaning Fitness Equipment
UV Systems for Pools