Safety Insights℠
Safety & Risk Management News & Notes

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Bed Bugs create "headaches" for resident programs. According to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) bed bugs are a problem worldwide. The occurrence of bed bug populations is resurging, causing property loss, expense, and inconvenience. The problem is common for many residence programs, housing facilities and resident camps. The good news is that bed bugs do not transmit disease; however that does not allow operators to ignore the issue. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a number of resources to help operators and residents prevent and manage bed bug problems. Resources include: Guidelines for Prevention and Management of Bed Bugs in Shelters and Group Living Facilities, Understanding Integrated Pest Management, Non-chemical Methods for Bed Bug Control and Preventing a Bed Bug Infestation read more HERE.

OSHA provides new resources for safety. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently posted new resources on their Website to help strengthen safety in the workplace. A new wallet card, "OSHA's Hazard Identification Training Tool," advertises a new training tool from OSHA designed to educate businesses about the hazard identification process using realistic workplace simulations. OSHA has also published a new wallet card "Whistleblowers: Work without Risk," to educate workers about their right to raise workplace safety and health concerns, to ask OSHA to inspect their workplaces, and to be protected from retaliation for exercising these rights. The card is also available in Spanish.

Learn more about managing Social Media Risk. Emily Stumhofer and Melanie Lockwood Herman from the Nonprofit Risk Management Center (NRMC) discuss social media risks in their new online article: "Hitting the Tweet Spot". The pair writes: "The only way to dodge social media risk these days is to abstain from posting, peeking and, with a new ruling from the National Labor Relations Board, liking!" According to a recent poll, few employers or employees are choosing abstinence these days. The 2014 Pew Internet Project research survey revealed that 74 percent of adult internet users have at least one social networking site. Fast Company reports that the fastest growing demographic of social media users is mature folk between 45 and 54 years of age. According to the 2014 Social Media Marketing Industry Report, 97 percent of marketers use social media. The 2014 Nonprofit Marketing Guide reports that nonprofits consider social media communications the third most important communications tool after websites and email marketing, with 86 percent of respondents indicating that social media was somewhat or very important. With this amount of use come concerns. Read more HERE.

OSHA expands requirement for reporting fatalities and severe injuries.
The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently announced changes to its recordkeeping and reporting regulations that require employers to notify OSHA when an employee is killed on the job or suffers a work-related hospitalization, amputation or loss of an eye. The rule, which also updates the list of employers partially exempt from OSHA record-keeping requirements, will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2015 for workplaces under federal OSHA jurisdiction. Previously, OSHA's regulations required an employer to report only work-related fatalities and in-patient hospitalizations of three or more employees. Reporting single hospitalizations, amputations or loss of an eye was not required under the previous rule. OSHA has also updated the list of industries (including many nonprofits) that are exempt from the requirement to routinely keep injury and illness records. OSHA has also produced a wallet-sized card with details on reporting requirements. Read more HERE.

Did you see this in the last E-news:

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.

This Month's Topics:

Bed Bug Management Information
Workplace Safety Tools
Managing Social Media Risks
OSHA Reporting Requirements
Youth Personal Safety
Pool Drain Cover Recall