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Learn about the Four Fundamental Risk Management Strategies for climbing walls. The Climbing Wall Association ([CWA](#)) has prepared a “White Paper” to help organizations better manage climbing wall risks. Author Bill Zimmerman writes: “There is a lot of discussion of “risk” and “risk management” in the climbing industry. However, when professionals are pressed to define what they mean by these terms, you’re likely to get a bewildering array of definitions. I’ll attempt to provide you with some relatively straightforward definitions and help you understand some of the fundamental strategies used to deal with risk in a recreational setting.” Read more [HERE](#).

Plan now to participate in National Child Abuse Prevention Month this April. The national effort and help you to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect and to encourage individuals and communities to support children and families. More about the about the history of the month and sample strategies for engaging communities and supporting families is available from the [US Department of Health and Human Services](#). Events and activities can be tied into regular program efforts, parent meetings and community activities over the month of April.

Stop the spread of MRSA. MRSA is methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, a type of staph bacteria that is resistant to some antibiotics. In the general community, MRSA can cause skin and other infections. Anyone can get MRSA through direct contact with an infected wound or by sharing personal items, such as towels or razors that have touched infected skin. MRSA infection risk can be increased when a person is in certain activities or places that involve crowding, skin-to-skin contact, and shared equipment or supplies. This might include athletes, daycare and school students, military personnel in barracks, and people who recently received inpatient medical care. Studies show that about one in three people carry staph in their nose, usually without any illness. Two in 100 people carry MRSA. The US Centers for Disease Control ([CDC](#)) provides [guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting athletic facilities](#). Additional information is available in the [Online Resource Library](#).

Safe playgrounds take effort and attention. Organizations are responsible for providing safe play opportunities for their youth. The National Recreation and Park Association ([NRPA](#)), through its National Playground Safety Institute ([NPSI](#)) has identified 12 of the leading causes of injury on playgrounds. Staff can familiarize themselves with the [Dirty Dozen Checklist](#) to help identify and address playground safety hazards. More information on playground safety is available from the US Consumer Product Safety Commission’s ([CPSC](#)) [Handbook for Playground Safety](#).

Water damage to hardwood courts can be a facility manager's nightmare. Whether it is due to burst pipe, fire sprinklers, a roof leak or something more catastrophic, water and hardwood floors don't mix well. Lots of water is even worse. Water damage can be costly for the organization and their insurance provider. It can also cause a disruption of activities and service. It doesn't take a lot of water or time to cause a major problem. This is a scenario that facilities should prepare for and hope they never experience. Emily Atwood from *Athletic Business* magazine provides some guidance for facility operators in a recent article. Read more [HERE](#).

It's time to look at controlling guns in the workplace. Melanie Lockwood Herman from the Nonprofit Risk Management Center (NRMC) recently provided some insight to the intersection of "conceal and carry" laws and the desire of a nonprofit to provide a violence and weapon-free workplace. All 50 states (not the District of Columbia) have adopted laws that generally permit individuals to carry loaded and concealed firearms if the individual has been issued a permit to do so by the state. Yet highly publicized incidents of workplace violence involving intruders and employees have prompted many employers to strictly prohibit staff, customers and visitors from bringing firearms into the workplace or onto property owned by the employer. The question is "Are these employer restrictions permitted under conceal and carry laws?" Herman writes: "The simple answer is "yes." Owners of private property, including private employers, may prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms on property under the owner's control. A private employer, including a private nonprofit organization, may adopt rules to ensure a safe environment for staff, service recipients and visitors. A nonprofit's rules may also include the specific prohibition of weapons—even legally acquired and licensed firearms—in the workplace." Read more [HERE](#).

This Month's Topics:

Climbing Wall Safety
National Child Abuse prevention Month
Controlling MRSA
Playground Safety
Water Damage to Hardwood Courts
Gun in the Workplace