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Do you lay awake at night thinking of Risks? Arley Turner from the Nonprofit Risk Management Center ([NRMC](#)) discusses planning for crisis in her recent article: "Keep the End Zone in Sight". Turner writes: "As a devout fan of the Denver Broncos it has taken me some time to come to terms with the recent Super Bowl results. Thankfully, I've finally stopped lying awake at night wondering, "what if," and "what went wrong?" It's time to focus on the future. What I've discovered is that many nonprofit leaders lie awake asking those same questions." Turner suggests that one reason some leaders seem to wind up in "crisis mode" time and time again is their tendency to focus on the minute details of the risk game. Read more [HERE](#).

It may be winter but it still can be time to plan for wildfire season. Every year there are more organizations at risk as wildfires burn across an increasing number of areas in the US. The National Fire Protection Association ([NFPA](#)) has materials that can help organizations and individual prepare for wildfire season. The NFPA also hosts the [Fire Wise Communities Program](#) with additional information about emergency preparedness and wildfire safety. Safe-Wise Consulting has prepared [Considerations for Wildfire Emergencies](#) that is available in the [Online Resource Library](#).

Safeguarding youth sports programs against embezzlement is a timely article by Emily Attwood in [Athletic Business](#) magazine. Attwood describes: "On a sunny Saturday morning, as parents gather along the sidelines and chatter idly while their children warm up for a morning of soccer practice, the last thing on anyone's mind or lips are questions about the financial records of the organization." Embezzlement remains an ongoing issue among youth sports organizations as well-meaning parents and volunteers step into leadership roles. A 2011 study by the National Alliance for Youth Sports ([NAYS](#)), found that 84 percent of parks and recreation organizations were leasing their facilities to outside groups. Parks and recreation departments typically benefit from being under the umbrella of a city or county government, which brings with it a wealth of organizational resources and a system of checks and balances. But as parks and recreation departments cede more control, a variety of largely untested entities are stepping in to fill the void. Parents appointed to be treasurers of volunteer-based boards that in some cases are overseeing millions of dollars with little to no oversight. Read more [HERE](#).

It is often called the silent killer for a reason. Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as those used in heating buildings) burn incompletely. In the homes, shelters and other residence facilities heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide. CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of homes and facilities where people reside. People can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a long period of time or by a large amount over a shorter amount of time. Fire departments around the US responded to over 80 thousand non-fire CO incidents in 2010, or an average of nine calls per hour. Read more about [Carbon Monoxide Safety](#) in the [Online Resource Library](#).

Posting the Fire Diamond can help in emergencies. Many facilities operated by nonprofit organizations regularly store and use hazardous chemicals. Most common in facilities operating pools these chemicals can pose a hazard to patrons, staff and emergency response personnel. Right to Know laws provide directive for communicating information about hazardous substances properly to the public and employees. Organizations can assist emergency response personnel by complying with local fire codes, [OSHA](#) hazard communication standards and the standards of the National Fire Protection Association ([NFPA](#)). Read more [HERE](#).

Helping youth deal with traumatic events can be difficult. The devastation from hurricanes, wildfires, other natural disasters or violence can take an emotional toll on people; especially youth. The [US Department of Education](#) has developed a brochure to provide practical information for organizations, teachers and families that are helping youth cope with the aftermath of traumatic events. Read more [HERE](#).

This Month's Topics:

Managing Nonprofit Risks

Planning for Wildfires

Preventing Embezzlement

Carbon Monoxide Safety

Hazardous Chemical Warning Signs

Dealing With Trauma