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**April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month.** The US Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau has resources targeted specifically for service providers who work with parents, other caregivers, and children with the common goal of strengthening families. Their [Website](#) provides resources to promote community awareness of important protective factors that can help families protect children from the risk of child abuse and neglect, including tip sheets for parents in English and Spanish. These resources were developed with input from numerous national organizations, federal partners, and parents committed to strengthening families. YMCAs can use this information as a great way to include youth protection activities in YMCA Healthy Kid's Day.

**Is your Playground ready for spring?** Each year, about 200,000 children are treated in US hospital emergency rooms for playground equipment-related injuries. Most of the injuries are the result of falls. Additionally, 15 children die each year, on average, as a result of playground equipment-related incidents. Most playground deaths are due to strangulations. As youth and programs move outdoors it's time to inspect and ensure your playground is safe. [Considerations for Playground Safety](#) has been added to the [Online Resource Library](#) and the [Handbook for Playground Safety](#) is a good resource from the [US Consumer Product Safety Commission](#).

**Ladder safety information has been updated.** When you want to reach a higher work area, think about the best equipment to use. While a ladder or stepladder is commonly used, it may not always be the best option. Selection, inspection and safe ladder use are strategies discussed in a new guide from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ([OSHA](#)). Read more [HERE](#).

**Two updated educational resources are available.** The Occupational Safety & Health Administration ([OSHA](#)) has released an updated version of the [Cold Stress QuickCard](#) which describes common types of cold stress, risk factors, protection tips and recommendations in the event of cold stress. In addition, the [Fact Sheet on Filing Whistleblower Complaints under the Affordable Care Act](#) has been updated and is available in both English and [Spanish](#). The revised fact sheet includes a summary of the Affordable Care Act, types of retaliation, coverage, and the process of filing a complaint.

**Tick season is coming.** Normal tick season lasts from mid-April through August in most parts of the US. Ticks may be active all year in some regions with warmer weather. Tick-borne pathogens can be passed to humans by the bite of infected ticks. Some of the most common tick-borne diseases in the US include: Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Southern Tick-Associated Rash Illness and Tick-Borne Relapsing Fever. [Lyme disease](#) is the most commonly reported tick-borne disease with more than 22,500 confirmed and 7,500 probable cases of Lyme disease reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) in 2010 alone. In most cases, ticks must be attached for 36-48 hours or more before an illness such as Lyme disease can be transmitted. Outdoor workers are at risk of exposure to tick-borne diseases if they work at sites with woods, bushes, high grass, or leaf litter. Outdoor workers in most regions of the US should be extra careful to protect themselves in the spring, summer, and fall when ticks are most active. The good news is that you can take steps to reduce your risk of being bitten by an infected tick. Read more [HERE](#) for prevention information. Other resources include this [curriculum for educating youth](#) and handouts such as [these](#).

**The Model Aquatic Health Code is nearing its final stage of development.**

The first pool- and spa-related model code to be written by the federal government is about to enter its final phase, and the public will be given its last chance to present feedback. The new code (MAHC) is being coordinated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)). The MAHC addresses all aspects of public pools, from design and construction to water quality to staffing requirements. It was partially funded through a grant from the National Swimming Pool Foundation. According to [Aquatics International](#) magazine MAHC is not a federal law like the Virginia Graeme Baker Act. Rather, the wide-ranging document can be adopted by states and municipalities at their own discretion, in the same way as model codes generated by the International Code Council and the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials. Local governments can adopt the MAHC in full, modify it or just incorporate parts of it into existing codes. Read more [HERE](#).

**This Month's Topics:**

*Child Abuse Prevention*

*Playground Safety*

*Ladder Safety*

*Staff Safety Resources from OSHA*

*Tick Season is Coming*

*Model Aquatic Health Code*