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**Swimmer management is important to aquatic safety.** A recent article in Aquatics International [magazine](#) by Tommy Berretz of Texas Aquatic Enterprises Inc. (TAE) discusses his firm's position on swimmer management in outlining their use of a "Child Safety Policy". TAE follows the lead of others in the aquatic field by recommending swimmer ability testing and implementing management practices based on swimmer ability. Drowning continues to be a leading cause of accidental death among youth. Aquatic managers need to implement a number of strategies, including swimmer management, to strengthen aquatic safety at pools and waterfronts. Read more [HERE](#). Safe-Wise Consulting continues to encourage aquatic facilities and venues to implement safety practices such as [Swim Testing Procedures](#) and practices for the [Management of Group Swimming](#). Additional aquatic safety information is available in the [Online Resource Library](#).

**Be aware of the bats in the belfry... and other locations.** There are more than 40 varieties of bats in the US. Bats can be beneficial by eating harmful insects, however, some bats may be infected by and transmit the rabies virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) reports that most of the recent human rabies cases in the US have been caused by rabies viruses associated with bats. This is something for camps to think about as they prepare for summer. Few individuals will ever be exposed to a rabies-suspect animal or need medical intervention due to a potential exposure while at camp. Preparation and awareness are still important. Awareness of the facts about bats and rabies can help protect both staff and campers. This information may also promote a better understanding of bats, their contributions to the environment, and what you can do to safeguard against bat-transmitted disease. Read more [HERE](#).

**Effectively managing emergencies at camp takes planning and practice.** Now is the time for camp programs to review their plan and prepare for summer. Greg Friese writes about planning and emergency drills at camp programs in the American Camp Association's [Camping Magazine](#). Friese writes: "Fortunately, many of our camps will never experience a true emergency — serious accident or fatality, financial collapse, program crippling property damage, or mission threatening negative publicity. A clean record does not guarantee a smooth future. Recent events like multiple swimmers drowning, abuse allegations, vehicle accidents, and wildfires remind us of the importance of having an emergency response plan. The best way to test your plan and crisis team is to conduct an emergency response drill." He goes on to fully discuss effective types of drills that can aid any camp program in their emergency management planning. Read more [HERE](#).

### **Part of fire prevention and control is the proper storage of flammables.**

Flammable and combustible liquids come in many forms. They can be hazardous because they may be easily ignited, burn intensely, or have a rapid rate of flame spread. Flammable and combustible liquids have similarities but they also possess different characteristics and can act differently when exposed to a heat source. General information on flammable and combustible liquid properties and storage is listed in the Safe-Wise Consulting resource "*Considerations for the Storage of Flammable and Combustible Liquids*". This information is based national regulations or guidelines from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ([OSHA](#)) and from the National Fire Protection Association ([NFPA](#)). Additional information may be obtained through local fire officials. Download the resource [HERE](#).

**Small organizations often struggle with OSHA compliance.** A variety of reasons may cause noncompliance and it is not always easy to understand what each organization must do to be compliant and protect its workers. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration ([OSHA](#)) has published two new educational resources: Hazard Communication: Small Entity Compliance Guide for Employers that use Hazardous Chemicals and Steps to an Effective Hazardous Communication Program for Employers That Use Hazardous Chemicals. Each resource offers organizations clear steps for creating an effective hazard communication program. Additional employee safety and compliance information is available in the [Online Resource Library](#).

**Ropes course inspections are part of summer program preparation.** Gary Forster of [Camp Solutions](#) discusses the importance of course inspection in his recent e-newsletter. Forster writes: "The Association for Challenge Course Technology ([ACCT](#)) has set the industry standards for 20 years, and is recognized as *the* authority. All courses are supposed to be designed to their specifications, and inspected annually to show they still meet them. This is especially important for "High Ropes" elements. But for those that only have "low ropes" elements and haven't seen the need, PLEASE at least use the self-inspection standards for playgrounds, and keep records. They cover things up to 10' off the ground." Forster sites the [Public Playground Safety Handbook](#) from the US Consumer Product Safety Commission ([CPSC](#)) as his favorite resource for conducting in-house low element inspections.

### **This Month's Topics:**

*Swimmer Management Practices*  
*Managing the Rabies Risk from Bats*  
*Camp Emergency Planning*  
*Proper Storage of Flammable Liquids*  
*Complying with Hazardous Chemical Regulations*  
*Ropes Course Inspection Resources*