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9 Truths about Black Holes and Dark Risks is the title of a recent article by Melanie Lockwood Herman of the Nonprofit Risk Management Center ([NRMCM](#)). Herman writes: “The March 2014 edition of *National Geographic Magazine* featured a fascinating article about black holes (“The Truth about Black Holes,” www.ngm.com). The term “black hole” is often used to describe a space where things go, but never escape. I found some of the “truths” about black holes eerily familiar. The characteristics of black holes described in the article reminded me of the traits of what I refer to as “dark risks”—the controversial risks that cause many leaders in nonprofits to look away. These are the risks that make everyone uncomfortable.” The article goes on to help leaders look at the “Dark Risks” within their organizations and how they sometimes share common characteristics with black holes. Read more [HERE](#).

Top Ten lists can be helpful in many situations. This holds true for emergency planning. Learning through the experience of others can be useful as camp programs review and develop emergency protocols for the upcoming summer season. The ten items included in “Prepare for a Hurricane (or Other Disaster)” from the American Camp Association’s ([ACA](#)) *Camping Magazine* are a good start in creating a useful emergency plan for your camp. Read more [HERE](#). Additional emergency planning and camp program resources are available from the ACA and the [Online Resource Library](#).

Wash your hands! That is a phrase that cannot be repeated too often at summer camp. The closeness of campers and staff at a summer camp can be an invitation for the spread of communicable diseases such as [Norovirus](#), [MRSA](#), fevers and other fun stuff. Camps must have practices in place that include health screening, daily health procedures and good practices such as the spacing of sleeping quarters, along with encouraging rest and hydration. Mealtime must include good health practices, especially in camps with family-style dining and where campers assist with distributing meals. Resources are available from the American Camp Association ([ACA](#)), the Association Camp Nurses ([ACN](#)) and the Centers for Disease Control and prevention ([CDC](#)). These resources, along with local information, are critical in preventing the outbreak and spread of serious health issues at your camp this summer.

Resources for managing bicycle program risks are available from the Bicycle Coalition of Maine ([BCM](#)). Resources are available for staff leading road or off-road bicycle adventures. Resources include safe riding practices, equipment fit and selection suggestions. The ABC quick check should be followed before each ride. This includes checking Air, Brakes and Chains. The site offers a wide range of useful information including videos and program resources. Read more [HERE](#).

Recreational Water Illness (RWI) Prevention is an issue all year long. With the onset of the busy summer swim season it is very important to review prevention strategies as thousands of swimmers head to outdoor pools. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) provides leadership and resources in preventing the outbreak of RWI. Some resources provide an outline of simple steps swimmers and pool operators can take to ensure a healthy and safe swimming experience for everyone. Training, prevention practices and communication are key strategies in preventing RWI. More information is available [HERE](#).

Best Practices Workbook for Boating, Fishing and Aquatic Resources Stewardship is a downloadable resource specially geared to making trainers and their programs more effective and safe. Created in 2000 for state fish and wildlife agency aquatic educators, *Best Practices* represents the best knowledge available for program planning, development and implementation, professional development, program evaluation and educational program research about teaching boating, fishing and stewardship of aquatic resources. The resource is filled with step-by-step guidance and easy-to-use tools for teaching and inspiring kids and program safety. Download this free resource [HERE](#).

This Month's Topics:

Managing Controversial Risks
Emergency Planning Top Ten
Managing Health at Camps
Bicycle Program Safety
Recreational Water Illnesses
Boating Best Practices