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**An updated Summer Aquatics Safety Reminder is now available.** The busy summer swim season is upon us; many aquatic venues will see high rates of use over the summer weeks. It's time for all aquatic leaders to be alert and prepared by orienting and regularly training seasonal lifeguard staff. Safe-Wise has produced this updated version of our annual summer aquatics preparation resource in order to help aquatic professionals prepare for a safe and enjoyable summer swim season. Leaders must recognize that many youth who visit their pools may not have adequate swimming skills and should work to eliminate the risk of drowning for these children by swim-testing all swimmers, requiring specific protections for non-swimmers and offering swim instruction when possible. Recommendations in this year's Safety Reminder will help strengthen your aquatic safety efforts. Read more [HERE](#).

**Tick season is coming.** Normal tick season is from May through August, but with the 70+ degree temperatures in some places, the ticks may get a jump on the season. The ticks that are already out are the visible adult, sesame-sized ones, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)). A greater concern for humans is the soon-to-be hatched nymphs (about the size of the period at the end of this sentence) that can cause infections to occur. Because they are essentially invisible, preying on a host can easily go undetected. In most cases, the tick must be attached for 36-48 hours or more before an illness such as Lyme disease can be transmitted. Infections from ticks, such as Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever are on the rise. 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](#).

**New "We Can Do This" video explains the value of Injury and Illness Prevention Programs.** "We Can Do This!" is a new seven-minute video developed by OSHA that explains how injury and illness prevention programs enhance workplace safety and health. An injury and illness prevention program is a systematic process that employers can use to find and fix workplace hazards before workers get hurt. Instituting these programs helps transform workplace culture and can lead to higher productivity, reduced turnover, reduced costs and greater worker satisfaction. To learn about the basic elements of these programs and how they have been implemented by many employers with dramatic results, visit OSHA's [Injury and Illness Prevention Program topics page](#) and watch the [video](#).

**Water, rest and shade can help your staff do their job this summer.** Heat-related illnesses can affect your programs by slowing or hurting staff and participants. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration ([OSHA](#)) has kicked off a national outreach initiative to educate workers and their employers about the hazards of working outdoors in the heat and steps needed to prevent heat-related illnesses. OSHA's [Heat Illness Prevention Campaign](#) builds on last year's successful summer campaign. According to OSHA, for outdoor workers, 'water, rest and shade' are three words that can make the difference between life and death. "If employers take reasonable precautions, and look out for their workers, we can beat the heat." While OSHA's efforts focus on workers, the information can be very useful for organizations that offer summer youth programs as they look to provide a safe, fun summer for youth. Read more [HERE](#).

**Wildfire preparation and prevention is an important part of your emergency planning for summer.** While sometimes caused by lightning, 90% of wildfires are caused by humans. Many wildfires can be prevented and the impact on your property can be reduced through sound preparations. Emergency plans should be designed for evacuations if your organization offers programming in a possible wildfire area. There currently is no way to forecast wildfire outbreaks, so it is critically important to plan ahead and remove potential hazards. Because wildfire can change direction and speed suddenly, a minor threat can quickly escalate into a major threat. More information on prevention and preparation can be found at the National Fire Protection Association's [Firewise Communities](#) program, the Federal Emergency Management Agency ([FEMA](#)), the American Red Cross ([ARC](#)) and in "[Considerations for Wild Fire Season Preparations](#)", available at the Safe-Wise Online Resource Library.

**Use a simple card game to offer driver refresher training.** The [J.J Keller Website](#) suggests that it's that time again...time to conduct training on a topic you present to your drivers on a regular basis. Sometimes the greatest challenge is keeping the drivers' attention long enough to make sure they have a solid understanding of the subject. Keller suggests that a simple card game that includes review questions is one way to get and maintain attention during a refresher training session. Leaders write review questions on the slips of paper or index cards and place them in a hat or box. Drivers then select a question from the hat or box, read the question aloud, and then try to answer the question. Each person who answers correctly selects a playing card from a deck of cards. The goal is to collect enough playing cards to add up to a numeric value of 21 and win the game. At the conclusion of the game the leader will summarize the session's important points. Read more [HERE](#).

**This Month's Topics:**

*[Aquatic Safety Reminder](#)*

*[Tick Season](#)*

*[Injury & Illness Prevention](#)*

*[Heat Illness Prevention](#)*

*[Wildfire Planning](#)*

*[Driver Training](#)*