

June 2014 | Volume 8 Issue 6.2

**Camps should take the casual transfer of illnesses seriously.** According to camp consultant Gary Forster most camps still aren't taking the Norovirus threat seriously. Forster estimates that several dozen camps will close for a session or more this summer as a result of the spread of this illness. A recent report from the Centers for Disease Control ([CDC](#)) suggests that, while Norovirus is often called the "Cruise Ship" virus, it is more often spread by food service workers and casually at meals. Please read this factsheet on [Norovirus](#) from the CDC and remember to get everyone to wash their hands before every meal. Read more from Gary [HERE](#).

**Inspections and monitoring are keys to preventing issues** in gymnasiums. When everything in a facility is in good working order and operating smoothly, it's all too easy for staff members to become complacent, trusting that everything will stay that way; at least until something goes wrong. When dealing with the equipment in a gymnasium, particularly large, overhead components like basketball backstops or gym dividers, when things go wrong, they can go very, very wrong. A [falling batting cage](#) in a school's gymnasium recently injured several people for example. Regular inspections of equipment and facilities can keep things running smoothly and help prevent accidents. Read more [HERE](#).

**Making safety a habit** is the topic of a recent article by Melanie Herman of the Nonprofit Risk Management Center ([NRMCC](#)). Herman writes: "Most of us have at least one bad habit we'd like to kick. But the term "habit" doesn't deserve a bad rap. Habit can, and should, be a positive concept in a nonprofit. Nowhere is habit more important than the area of workplace safety. A safe workplace, summer camp, clinic, training site or residence is somewhere we can be proud of. And it's also a place where our clients, consumers and customers feel welcome and valued." Read more [HERE](#).

**Flammable and combustible substances should be properly stored** in order to prevent accidents and incidents at facilities. A flammable/combustible is any substance that is easily ignited, burns intensely, or has a rapid rate of flame spread. For regulatory convenience, flammable and combustible liquids are defined together as any liquid with a flash point below 140° F. Staff should identify and inventory these various products and ensure they are properly stored or disposed of. Each product usually has its storage information listed on container labels or in the [Safety Data Sheet](#). Sample storage guidelines, based on criteria from various standards and codes, are available in the [Online Resource Library](#). Read more [HERE](#).

**Ropes course inspection is basis of a lawsuit** where a climber was injured. John Wolohan discusses both the importance of course inspections and actions taken on safety recommendations in an article in [Athletic Business](#) magazine. Wolohan writes: “In the sports and recreation industry, it is common to hire outside consultants to conduct risk management audits. Typically, these audits involve a site visit to inspect the facility, observe some of the activities or programs taking place in the facility, and interview members and employees of the organization. A review of the organization's policies, procedures and insurance coverage is also conducted. At the end of the visit, a written report — which usually includes a series of recommendations on how the organization can reduce its risks and legal exposure — is provided.” Read more [HERE](#).

**Make sure your staff are defensive drivers by providing good training** and having a transportation plan in place. Take time to refresh good driving habit with three basic techniques for defensive driving and accident prevention:

The two-second rule: Drivers should stay at least two seconds behind the driver in front. In bad weather, add more time. Better yet, use three seconds, especially in traffic and when loaded with passengers.

Remember to pass safely: Follow the rules of the road such as looking for a broken yellow lines and check to see if any traffic is coming toward you. Do not pass unless you can see far enough ahead. And if you are being passed, slow down if the other vehicle needs extra room to pass you safely.

Keep cool and alert in traffic: Organizations should support their drivers by ensuring other supervision is on every vehicle to help manage passenger behavior. Navigating through heavy traffic is both hazardous and stressful. Drivers need to free form distractions in the vehicle so they can react quickly.

Good driving training helps staff refresh their defensive driving techniques, emergency plans and discusses problem areas such as intersections, parking lots and of course backing vehicles. More information on transportation safety is available in the [Online Resource Library](#).

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

*Preventing Illness at Camp*  
*Facility Inspections*  
*Safety Habits*  
*Storage of Flammables*  
*Ropes Course Inspections*  
*Defensive Driving*