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**Is it time to close your pool?** Within in the aquatic community there continues to be debate over the need for closing indoor pools during proximate lightning activity. While it has long been established a best practice at outdoor facilities, there is no consensus on the need for pool evacuation at indoor aquatic facilities. The debate has resurfaced in a [recent article from Aquatics International magazine](#). Safe-Wise Consulting has developed a *Lightning Safety at Indoor Pools FAQ* document to assist facility operators in developing appropriate lightning emergency action plans. Several insurers, the [National Lightning Safety Institute](#), the [National Weather Service](#) and Safe-Wise Consulting continue to support the closing and/or evacuation of both indoor and outdoor pools during proximate lightning activity. Read more [HERE](#).

**Injuries from Soccer Goals Hospitalize 120 People Annually.** According to the Soccer Industry Council of America, over 16 million persons in the US play soccer at least once a year and there are approximately 500,000 soccer goals in use. Many of these soccer goals are unsafe because they are unstable and are either unanchored or not properly anchored or counter-balanced. These movable soccer goals pose a risk of tipping over to children who climb on goals (or nets) or hang from crossbars. [Soccer goals should be securely anchored](#) to fields or stored in a manner to prevent tipping and accidently injury. Programs may consider [Goal Alert](#) to help prevent soccer goal injuries. The majority of accidents do not occur during soccer matches. Most occur when the goals are unattended. Therefore, it is imperative that all goals be stored properly when not being used.

**It's time to think about driver safety training and the new school-year.** The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ([NHTSA](#)) is committed to reducing school bus-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities through both behavioral programs and vehicle regulations. NHTSA works to educate bus drivers, students, and others about safe behavior that reduces the risk of vehicular incidents. More information about their programs and an in-service training series is available at their [Website](#). Check with [Safe-Wise Consulting](#) for more information about onsite or online driver training programs.

**A safety culture is an essential element of an effective organization.** A safety culture is reflected by the commitment of personnel to safety at all levels of the organization. The key elements of a safety culture are: organizational & management commitment, training, the physical environment, staff involvement, effective communication, performance management and personal accountability. The safety culture is achieved over time, continually grows and must be nurtured through evaluation and information. The guidance of the safety culture at an organization can be led by a [safety committee](#). More information about safety is available on the [Online Resource Library](#).

## **Did you see this in the previous E-news:**

**Are your swimmers climbing the walls?** Aquatic professionals have turned to new products in an effort to attract and retain patrons as well as add “Fun” to their facilities. The aquatic climbing wall is one of these products. Aquatic climbing walls are becoming more popular across the US. The apparatus structure is attached to the tank side and deck of a pool; providing swimmers an opportunity to climb the wall over the water. It is important to establish safety guidelines for these structures in order to reduce the risk of injury. Operating guidelines should include: following any manufacturer recommendations, swimmer ability testing, swimmer restrictions, proper water depth, strong supervision with a dedicated lifeguard, restricting diving, and maintaining “splash” zones around and under the apparatus. Walls should be properly installed, angle over the water and be sized appropriately for the pool and water depth. Facility leaders should also check with their insurance provider prior to purchase and installation to ensure that coverage is available for the product. More information is available [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

**Playgrounds are an important program element for many youth-serving organizations.** As the busy summer program season winds down and preparations begin for the fall, facilities should be inspected for safety and security. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) publishes [Guidelines for Public Playground Safety](#), which can assist staff in properly reviewing their play ground facilities to ensure the safety of participants.

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

*Lightning Safety at Indoor Pools*  
*Soccer Goal Safety*  
*Driver Training*  
*A Safety Culture*  
*Aquatic Climbing Walls*  
*Playground Inspections*