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Policies can help protect our youth from abuse, but only if they are followed. As the busy fall program season begins for many nonprofits it is important to remind ourselves to follow our policies so nothing slips past our efforts to protect youth from harm. An effective youth protection program includes a number of core elements: a [written board approved policy](#), effective [screening practices](#), [regular training](#), [strong supervision](#) and [awareness](#) efforts (for youth, parents and the community). These elements are outlined in Safe-Wise Consulting's [youth protection program](#). Organizations should review their [sign-in/out procedures](#) and also incorporate current information in their training and policy updates. Read more [HERE](#).

"Why Risk Plans Go Off the Rails" is the title of a recent article by Melanie Lockwood Herman of the Nonprofit Risk Management Center ([NRMC](#)). Herman likens her recent consultation experience to the song "[Stuck in the Middle with You](#)," by Stealers Wheel. Herman writes: "The subject of being stuck in the middle came up recently at a consultation with a client. It wasn't the first time I've had an opportunity to talk with leaders who find themselves stuck in the middle of an earnest effort to evolve their risk management program." The article sites reasons for risk management plan malfunctions such as: unrealistic expectations, narrow perspective, and terminology confusion. Herman also gives great suggestions on how to get unstuck and right the ship. Read more [HERE](#). Also, there is still time to register for the [2015 Risk Summit in Chicago!](#) Go [HERE](#) to learn more about the program and learning opportunities.

26,000 fingers are amputated or broken in door accidents every year according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission ([CPSC](#)). A study published by the American College of Emergency Physicians states that children younger than 5 years had the highest rate of finger amputations treated in hospital emergency rooms. Almost 75% of these amputations in young children resulted from their finger(s) getting caught, jammed, or crushed in a doorway during the opening or closing of a door. Youth-serving organizations and child care centers should review their facilities to see if these injuries can be prevented. Many organizations have found that the installation of products such as [Pinch-Not](#) and [Fingersafe](#) door safety products can help keep small fingers safe. Regular [playground inspections](#) can help prevent injuries as well.

Custodial positions can be dangerous according to the US Department of Labor (DOL) statistics. The main reason the DOL lists custodial work as one of the most dangerous jobs in the country is the use of cleaning chemicals. When used properly cleaning chemicals are relatively safe. However, accidents do happen and there are precautions that should be taken for the proper handling of cleaning solutions. Key strategies in preventing chemical handling accidents include developing a [written plan](#), employee training, [proper labeling](#), use of [safety data sheets](#) and [proper storage of chemicals](#). Read more [HERE](#).

Did you see this in the previous E-news:

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](#).

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.

This Month's Topics:

Youth Protection Practices
Risk Management Planning
Risk Management Summit
Protect Little Fingers
Chemical Handling Safety
Lightning Safety at Indoor Pools
Driver Training