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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.

**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.

**Saunas are a leading cause of facility fires**. The installation of a sprinkler inside a sauna can help reduce the impact of a fire. A significant fire was prevented last year at an east coast YMCA where a patron left a towel on the sauna heating unit. The facility had installed a sprinkler head in the sauna to help control possible fire outbreak. While the sprinkler did not prevent the fire, it contained and extinguished it. The facility is not completely sprinkled but the Y had installed the sprinkler head as a good risk management strategy. It is fairly common for patrons to place towels, newspapers and other flammable materials near a sauna's heating unit. Posting signage with use guidelines and installing a protective barrier around the heating unit to prevent materials coming in contact with it are good incident prevention strategies. Regular inspection of the heating units, electrical outlets and the sauna wood can help identify issues before they lead to fires. Read more about safe sauna operation in the Safe-Wise Online Resource Library.

**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 last E-news:**

**An updated Model Aquatic Health Code has been released.** The Model Aquatic Health Code [MAHC](#) offers national guidance that can be voluntarily adopted by state and local jurisdictions to minimize the risk for illness and injury at public aquatic facilities through facility design, construction, operation, maintenance, and management. Recent updates reflect input from state and local public health colleagues, aquatics professionals, and other stakeholders who joined the Council for the Model Aquatic Health Code ([CMAHC](#)). An important change in the 2016 MAHC recommends that when hyper-chlorinating to inactivate *Cryptosporidium* and in response to diarrheal incidents in the water, concentrations of chlorine stabilizer not exceed 15 ppm. Previous recommendations for hyper-chlorinating permitted cyanuric acid concentrations of up to 50 ppm. Current hyper-chlorination and fecal incident response recommendations, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) are aligned with the MAHC and are available [HERE](#).

**It's Better to Miss One Game than the Whole Season** according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)). The CDC has developed the [Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports](#) initiative to offer information about concussions and to help ensure the health and safety of young athletes. The *Heads Up* initiative provides important information on preventing, recognizing, and responding to a concussion for coaches, parents and athletes. A concussion is an injury that changes how the cells in the brain normally work. The potential for concussions is greatest in athletic environments where collisions are common. Concussions can occur, however in any organized or unorganized sport or recreational activity. As many as 3.8 million sports and recreation related concussions occur in the United States each year.

More resources are available in the [Online Resource Library](#).

**This Month's Topics:**

*Review Youth Protection for Fall*

*Finger Injury Prevention*

*Controlling Sauna Fires*

*Custodial Chemical Handling*

*New Model Aquatic Health Code Updates*

*Concussion Prevention in Youth Sports*