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**33rd International Symposium on Child Abuse; March 27-30, Huntsville, AL.** April is National Child Abuse Prevention month and what better way to prepare. This symposium offers over 130 workshops and is one of the few conferences that addresses all aspects of child maltreatment. **NEW!** this year, **Youth-Serving Organization Track**. Visit the [NCAC site](#) and register!

**March is National Collision Awareness Month.** Preliminary data from the National Safety Council ([NSC](#)) [estimates](#) that as many as 40,000 people died in motor vehicle crashes in 2016. That marks a 6% increase over 2015 and a 14% increase over 2014 – the most dramatic two-year escalation in 53 years. Unfortunately, it is easier than ever to drive distracted. Auto makers are putting technology into our vehicles that allows us to make phone calls, dictate texts or emails and update social media while we are behind the wheel – all actions that are proven to increase crash risk. The NSC also observes April as [Distracted Driving Awareness Month](#) to draw attention to this epidemic. The NSC wants to empower you to put safety first and Take Back Your Drive. Learn why your organization needs a [Cell Phone Policy](#).

**Wildfire season begins earlier in some high-risk areas.** Every year there are more organizations at risk as wildfires burn across an increasing number of areas in the US. Preparations for wildfire season can start now. April 1<sup>st</sup> is the start of wildfire season, but some high-risk areas have started preparations as early as March 1<sup>st</sup>. [Ready.gov](#) has materials that can help organizations and individual prepare for wildfire season. Additional information about emergency preparedness and wildfire safety is also available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency ([FEMA](#)), the American Red Cross ([ARC](#)), the Fire Adapted Communities [Website](#), and at [Ready, Set, Go!](#) Safe-Wise Consulting has prepared [Considerations for Wildfire Emergencies](#) that is available in the [Online Resource Library](#).

**Ropes course inspections are an important part of summer program preparation.** The Association for Challenge Course Technology ([ACCT](#)) has set the industry standards for 20 years, and is recognized as the authority. All courses are supposed to be designed to their specifications, and inspected annually to show they still meet them. This is especially important for “High Ropes” elements, but for those that only have “low ropes” elements and haven’t seen the need, at least use the self-inspection standards for playgrounds, and keep records. They cover things up to 10’ off the ground. The [Public Playground Safety Handbook](#) from the US Consumer Product Safety Commission ([CPSC](#)) can be used as a resource to conduct in-house low element inspections.

**Product Alert! SafeWatch TEAM™.** [SafeWatch TEAM™](#) for employers and educators by [Safety Alert Apps™](#) gives your employees and staff the fastest connection to help, and gives the employer control to program the hierarchy of who is informed in any kind of emergency. When an emergency happens, SafeWatch TEAM™ immediately connects your employees in less than 5 seconds on the phone to 911 and/or local security and simultaneously sends their preselected “SafeTeam” members text and email alerts with their GPS location. It securely stores your Safety Team data in the Cloud. If a phone is destroyed in an emergency, the data is still sent to the Safety Team. Read more [HERE](#).

**Did you see this in the last E-news:**

**NEW! Updated Emergency Planning Guidelines for Nonprofits.** With the recent rash of threats nationally against JCC’s and other organizations, it might be a good time to review and update your organization’s emergency preparedness and crisis management plans with our [Updated Emergency Planning Guidelines for Nonprofits](#).

**Employers must post injury and illness summaries now.** The Occupational Safety and Health Administration ([OSHA](#)) reminds employers of their obligation to post a copy of [OSHA's Form 300A](#), which summarizes job-related injuries and illnesses logged during 2016. The summary must be displayed in a common area where notices to employees are usually posted each year between February 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>. Businesses with 10 or fewer employees and those in certain low-hazard industries, such as many non-profits, are exempt from the federal OSHA recordkeeping and posting requirements. However, as of January 2015, some previously exempt businesses are now covered. The lists of both [exempt](#) and [newly covered](#) industries are available on OSHA’s website. Visit OSHA’s [Recordkeeping Rule webpage](#) for more information on recordkeeping requirements.