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Steps to a Safer Office Space: Most people would think that working at a desk in a climate-controlled office all day would seem less dangerous than other more physical jobs. However, a surprising number of hazards can be present in an office setting. Establishing an organizational culture of safety begins with your staff's safety. The following are a few steps you can take to reduce the risk of injury amongst your office staff. **Stay clutter-free;** Boxes, files and assorted items piled too high or in walkways can create tripping and struck/by hazards. **Electrical cords;** In addition to posing an electrical hazard, stretching cords across walkways or under rugs creates a [tripping hazard](#), so ensure all cords are properly secured and covered. **Standing on chairs;** Particularly rolling office chairs is a common and significant fall hazard. Provide workers who need to reach something at an elevated height with a [stepladder](#). **Shut the drawer;** File cabinets with too many fully extended drawers could tip over if they are not secured. Additionally, open drawers on desks and file cabinets pose a tripping hazard, so be sure to always completely close drawers when not in use. **Provide adjustable equipment;** One size does not fit all in an office workstation. Chairs, work surfaces, monitor stands, etc., should all be adjustable to accommodate the widest range of employees. **Inspect space heaters;** If employees use [space heaters](#), verify the devices are approved for commercial use and have a switch that automatically shuts off the heater if the heater is tipped over. Also, make sure space heaters are not powered through an extension cord or placed near combustible materials such as paper. **Do not block escape routes or prop open fire doors;** Items should never be stored along an [emergency exit route](#). These paths should remain free of clutter. Fire doors should not be held open by unapproved means (such as with a garbage can or chair), as this creates a significant [fire hazard](#). Finally, periodically walking around the office can help with hazard recognition as well as talking to employees about their concerns. Simply asking workers how they are feeling can go a long way toward recognizing hazards. Click [HERE](#) for additional staff safety resources located in our resource library.

Heat Illness can be Deadly. According to the Occupational Safety & Health Administration ([OSHA](#)), in 2014 alone, 2,630 workers suffered from heat illness and 18 died from heat stroke and related causes on the job. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's ([NOAA](#)) summer outlook, most of the country is favored to have a hotter than average summer in 2017. The good news is heat illnesses and deaths are preventable. Plan for emergencies and train workers on prevention of [heat illness](#) including heat cramps, exhaustion, and stroke as well as what to do in an emergency. Provide workers with water, rest and shade. Allow new or returning workers to gradually increase workloads and take more frequent breaks as they acclimatize, or build a tolerance for working in the heat. These same guidelines can be applied to your [youth sports](#) and summer camp programs as well. Click [HERE](#) to access OSHA's Protect Yourself Heat Stress Quick Card. Additional resources are available in our [Resource Library](#).

Cryptosporidium Outbreaks on the Rise: According to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)), outbreaks of this parasitic infection associated with swimming pools and water parks are on the rise, with twice as many outbreaks in 2016 as in 2014. The CDC received reports of at least 32 outbreaks caused by [Cryptosporidium](#) — also known as "Crypto" — linked to swimming pools or water playgrounds in the U.S. in 2016, compared with 16 outbreaks in 2014. The parasite can spread when patrons swallow water that has come into contact with feces, usually diarrhea, from an infected person. Swallowing just a mouthful of Crypto contaminated water can leave otherwise healthy people sick for up to three weeks. Symptoms include watery diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea, or vomiting. Unfortunately, Crypto is not easily killed by disinfectants like chlorine and bromine, and can even survive up to 10 days in properly treated water. The CDC recommends closing a pool and treating the water with elevated levels of chlorine, called [hyperchlorination](#), when responding to a diarrheal incident in the water or a Crypto outbreak. The most important factors to the prevention of Crypto include: maintaining water quality and equipment; educating pool staff, swimmers and parents on proper hygiene; instituting disinfection guidelines like plans for [fecal incident response](#); posting and distributing [health information](#) and [signage](#); and finally developing an outbreak emergency response plan. Click [HERE](#) for more detailed information from the CDC on prevention and control of "Crypto".

Blog: Click [HERE](#) for our latest blog: Building a "Culture of Safety".

Did you see this in the last E-news?

Storm Clean-up Safety: With severe storms hitting many parts of the country in recent weeks, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration ([OSHA](#)) urges recovery workers, employers and the public to use caution during cleanup and recovery efforts. The agency urges all to be aware of hazards they may encounter, and steps needed to stay safe and healthy. The main concern is the safety and health of the workers and volunteers conducting cleanup activities. Everyone should use personal protective equipment ([PPE](#)) and implement safe work practices to protect themselves from hazards such as [electrocution](#), struck-by, caught-in and other hazards. Protective measures should involve; Evaluating work areas for all hazards. Monitoring task-specific hazard exposure. Assuming all power lines are live. Following proper hygiene procedures. Using portable generators, saws, [ladders](#), vehicles and other equipment correctly. Creating traffic work zones. Click [HERE](#) for additional resources for storm cleanup activities from [OSHA](#) and on our [Resource Library](#).

Playgrounds Shouldn't Hurt: Springtime is here and playground season is in full swing. Playgrounds should be a safe place for our children to have fun and play games, but far too often common hazards can lead to injuries—and even death. Click [HERE](#) for a complete list of the Dirty Dozen; 12 Playground Hazards from the National Recreation and Parks Association ([NRPA](#)). Additional resources on playground safety from the CPSC can be found [HERE](#) and on our [Resource Library](#).