

May 2017 | Volume 11 Issue 5.1

May is National Water Safety Month. The busy summer swim season will soon be upon us and it's time for all aquatic leaders to be alert and prepared by orienting and regularly training seasonal lifeguard staff. Safe-Wise has again updated our annual summer aquatics preparation resource to help aquatic professionals prepare for a safe and enjoyable summer. Prepare for the summer cautiously and ensure that lifeguards are well prepared and vigilant with effective practices and procedures. Leaders must recognize that many youth who visit their pools may not have adequate swimming skills and should work to eliminate the risk of drowning for these children by swim-testing all swimmers, requiring specific protections for non-swimmers and offering swim instruction when possible. Read more [HERE](#).

Springtime means the start of outdoor grilling season. Outdoor events and programs often mean that nonprofit organization staff is "working the grill". While some staff members may be safety conscious it should not be a foregone conclusion they are prepared for the potential pitfalls of gas grills; a little training and orientation goes a long way in preventing grilling incidents. LP gas/liquid propane and natural gas are flammable. Many accidents occur after the grill has been unused over a period or after a grill's LP gas container has been refilled and reattached. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission ([CPSC](#)) suggests that before starting the grill there are several safety precautions to keep in mind. The CPSC has published [Gas Grill Safety Guidelines](#) to provide safety education to grill users. By following these guidelines staff will help to prevent injuries and possible gas explosions or fires. For those "old school" grillers using charcoal the National Fire Protection Association has published [Grilling Safety Tips](#). Additional program safety and fire prevention information is available in the [Online Resource Library](#).

Cell phone use dangerous while exercising. While many people enjoying listening to music on their cell phones, they should be encouraged to avoid talking or texting on their cell phones while performing tasks, especially walking, exercising and driving. In fact, research suggests talking on the phone or even texting while exercising can lead to injuries. Talking or texting on a cell phone can distract us to the extent that it affects our stability and can lead to slips, trips and falls. This can place people at risk for injury from stumbling, losing their balance and falling in situations that might not otherwise create an issue. People who answer their phone and texts while walking on a treadmill are more likely to stumble, fall or twist an ankle or knee. For these reasons, cell phone use should be limited to listening to music while people work out.

Blog: When an employee dies or is severely injured on the job, should someone with the employer face criminal charges including going to jail? Click [HERE](#) for further discussion and to share your thoughts.

Welcome to our pool, notice there's no P in it. Well maybe not, according to a new study published in the American Chemical Society journal, Environmental Science & Technology Letters, of 31 different pools and hot tubs in two Canadian cities, urine was present in 100% of the samples. While urine is sterile, compounds in urine, including urea, ammonia, and creatinine have been found to react with disinfectants to form byproducts known as [DBPs](#) (disinfection by-products) otherwise known as [chloramines](#). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) chloramines in the water, like dichloramine and trichloramine, irritate skin, eyes, and the respiratory tract (including the nose) when they off gas from the water and into the air above, particularly indoors. Long-term exposure to the compounds has been linked to asthma in professional swimmers and pool workers. In addition, chloramines can also contribute to corrosion of metals around the aquatic venue and in air handling systems. Prevention includes posting and distributing [health information](#) and [signage](#) encouraging parents to have their children use the rest rooms before swimming, use of swim diapers for infants, encouraging full body showering and requiring bathroom breaks every 30 – 60 minutes. Pool operators can mitigate the creation and effects of DBP's, by ensuring automated PH and CL control systems are working efficiently, maintaining PH at 7.4, and a strong FAC at 2.0 PPM or higher. ORP should be at maintained minimally at 750 MV. Be sure your pool HVAC is working efficiently to help remove off-gassing DBPs. For facilities with UV systems, be sure your UV system is working efficiently and that bulbs are replaced per manufacturer recommendations. Click [HERE](#) for additional information on "Preventing Pee in the Pool" from the National Swimming Pool Foundation ([NSPF](#)).

Did you see this in the last E-news?

Save the date! The 2017 Risk Summit will take place this September 17 – 19, 2017 at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. This conference is ideal for nonprofit leaders who want to broaden their perspective on risk, learn practical strategies for identifying and managing risk, and bring risk resources and know-how back to their mission-driven organizations. If you're interested in positioning the risk management function to truly fortify your mission and navigate around or through the "what ifs" of the nonprofit world, you won't want to miss this event. Read more [HERE](#).

Nationwide Safe + Sound Week; June 12 – 18, 2017. The Occupational Safety & Health Association ([OSHA](#)), the National Safety Council ([NSC](#)), the American Industrial Hygiene Association ([AIHA](#)), the American Society of Safety Engineers ([ASSE](#)), and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health ([NIOSH](#)) have announced June 12-18 as Safe + Sound Week. The event is a nationwide effort to raise awareness of the value of workplace safety and health programs. Throughout this week, organizations are encouraged to host events and activities that showcase the core elements of an effective safety and health program--management leadership, worker participation, and finding and fixing workplace hazards. Visit the [Safe + Sound Week webpage](#) to sign-up for email updates on the event.