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October is National Bullying Prevention Month. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) bullying is one type of youth violence that threatens young people's well-being. Bullying can result in physical injuries, social and emotional difficulties, and academic problems. Bullying is a form of child abuse. Every October, schools and organizations across the country join [STOMP Out Bullying™](#) in observing National Bullying Prevention Month. The goal: encourage communities to work together to stop [bullying](#) and [cyberbullying](#) by increasing awareness of the prevalence and impact of bullying on children of all ages. This is your month to take leadership at your organization and carry it through year-round! The more awareness that is created during the month of October, puts us one step closer to putting an end to bullying! Additional Bully Prevention Month resources can be found at the [Pacer Center](#), Champions for Children with Disabilities, [National Bully Prevention Center](#) website, and on [stopbullying.gov](#).

Infant Neck Floats. Infant neck floats are popular on social media, but experts caution against these floaties for babies as they may be dangerous. In general, the aquatics industry frowns upon inflatables. Typically, the argument against their use is that children learning to swim can develop a dependency and there is the potential for deflation during use. In 2015, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission ([CPSC](#)) [recalled 3,000 units](#) because the infant neck floats were leaking at the seams. The American Academy of Pediatrics ([AAP](#)) also [advises](#) to avoid air-filled flotation devices as they can deflate and are not designed to keep swimmers safe. This is why some experts are alarmed to see that a flotation device designed for babies to wear around their necks is becoming popular. Neck floaties, which allow babies to hang vertically in the water, were originally designed as medical aids for children with disabilities, but now they're being marketed as more recreational devices. Unless baby neck floats are medically prescribed, professionally fitted, and used under constant adult supervision, they have the potential to be very dangerous. In addition to deflation concerns, if the float is too wide, the baby's mouth and nose can become obstructed and if the float is too loose, the baby could slip through. If the float is too tight, breathing may become restricted or the carotid artery compressed. Social media seems to be fueling their popularity with cute pictures and videos of babies floating like buoys, prompting experts to denounce their use as a recreational swimming aids.

OSHA Training Requirements. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's ([OSHA](#)) mobile-friendly publication on training requirements is easy to use on the job. Their comprehensive guide to [Training Requirements in OSHA Standards](#) is a valuable reference to help employers, safety and health professionals, and training directors comply with the law and keep workers safe. However, at more than 250 pages, the printed version can be cumbersome to carry on some jobsites. That's why the guide, now available in digital formats that can be easily read on a smartphone or tablet and searched for the standards that apply to specific industries or activities. Visit OSHA's website to [download a copy](#).

Pool Safely Campaign. According to media reports compiled by the [USA Swimming Foundation](#), a [Pool Safely campaign partner](#), from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2017, at least 163 children younger than age 15 fatally drowned in swimming pools or spas. Of the 163 reports, 112 of the victims, nearly 70 percent were children younger than age five. The [Pool Safely](#) campaign, a national public education campaign run by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission ([CPSC](#)), provides information on the simple steps that parents, caregivers, and pool owners should take to ensure that children and adults stay safe in and around pools and spas to reduce fatal and nonfatal drownings. All parents and caregivers are reminded to follow Pool Safely's [safety tips](#) to keep children safer in and around the water. Click [HERE](#) to take the Pledge and download your free toolkit to help prevent drownings.

Blog: Click [HERE](#) for our latest blog: **Dry Drowning and Other Misnomers...**

Did you see this in the last E-news?

Membership / Guest Screening. Summer is coming to an end and school is back in session. Soon your community will be heading back indoors for fall programming and your hallways will be full of young community members again. Now is a good time to review and update your membership and visitor screening practices. These practices are an important layer of protection to help decrease the risk of abuse and is a good deterrent to potential predators looking for easy access to children. Does your organization check **all** members, guests, staff and contractors into the facility? Do you always know who is in your building? Do visitors sign-in and wear a name tag identifying them? Does your organization conduct a national sex offender registry check on everyone who enters your facilities? No one should have unauthorized access to youth or be in the building or program areas without acceptable identification and permission. Best practice is to conduct a [national sex offender registry check](#) on all members and guests and have established procedures for responding when you find anyone on the list. Sex offender registry checks should be repeated on the same schedule as staff criminal background checks. Click [HERE](#) for additional child abuse prevention resources located on the [Safe-Wise Resource Library](#).

Fire Prevention Week; October 8 – 14, 2017. According to the National Fire Protection Association ([NFPA](#)), in a fire, seconds count. Seconds can mean the difference between escaping safely from a fire or having lives end in tragedy. That's why this year's Fire Prevention Week theme: "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" is so important. It reinforces why everyone needs to have an escape plan. This is a good time to make fire prevention a topic all around your organization. Safety training [refreshers](#) for staff, [emergency procedure](#) review, [exit route planning](#), [activities for children](#) and [emergency drills](#) can be tied into the theme and strengthen your facility's level of preparedness. For more information on fire prevention activity ideas contact your local fire department or click [HERE](#).