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**Flood Response Safety:** Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma brought catastrophic flooding to Texas, Louisiana and Florida over the last few weeks, but it also brought heroic reactions from first responders and volunteers. As the flood waters recede, thousands of Americans are beginning the challenging work of cleanup and recovery. The U.S. Department of Labor's ([DOL](#)) 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. Stay out of flood waters unless it is necessary to evacuate an area. Even though it may be tempting to wade in flood waters, flooded areas may be deeper than they look, and water levels can rise unexpectedly. Flood waters can also contain dangerous debris that can cause cuts and puncture wounds. Water is sometimes also contaminated with chemicals and germs that can make people sick. 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](#). Remember, most of these are general guidelines and some operations such as utility restoration, hazardous material cleanup, and search and rescue should only be conducted by workers who have been properly trained. Click [HERE](#) for more tips on staying safe, and to learn more about how the DOL is supporting communities affected by this storm.

**Safe Driving is Serious Business.** Drive Safely Work Week™ ([DSWW](#)) has been an annual campaign sponsored by the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety ([NETS](#)) for many years. To continue this successful campaign, they are updating the structure to focus more tightly on changing specific behaviors, delivered more frequently. That is why DSWW is now being offered on a more frequent basis, with modules focused on specific driving behaviors. The next DSWW campaign will be held the first week of October and will focus on the topic of impaired driving. Any of the 2017 campaigns can be used during this week based on the employer's schedule. The Drive Safely Work Week™ [campaign materials](#) include meaningful activities that reinforce the program's safe-driving messages yet won't take significant time away from the work day. Note that materials are not dated, providing the flexibility you need to schedule Drive Safely Work Week activities for the time that works best with your organization's work schedule. Click [HERE](#) for additional transportation safety 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](#).

**Blog:** Click [HERE](#) for our latest blog: **Membership / Guest Screening**

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

**Flu Update: A Message for Caregivers & Teachers.** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) the vaccine for the 2017-2018 flu season has been updated to better match circulating flu viruses. The CDC recommends vaccination with an injectable flu vaccine for everyone 6 months and older before the end of October, if possible. Though flu seasons vary in their timing from season to season, getting vaccinated by the end of October helps ensure that staff, children, and parents are protected before flu activity begins to increase in their community. With school back in session, there are important steps that child care providers and programs can take to protect children from flu-related illness. Now is the time to prepare for next flu season. Update your program's family contact information and child records, so parents can be reached quickly if they need to pick up their sick child. Examine and revise your child care programs written plan for seasonal flu. Schedule flu prevention education for program staff. Review policies on immunizations, hand washing; cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting surfaces and toys; and excluding (sending home) children who are sick. Consider displaying [educational materials](#) to encourage vaccination, good hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette. Help families understand the important roles they can play in reducing the spread of flu. Plan to distribute a [customized letter](#) to parents about flu prevention and control practices in your program. Consider requiring flu vaccine for all child care workers and children who attend child care, even if your state does not require it. This will not only help to prevent flu infection, but it will also reduce the spread within the classroom. Click [HERE](#) for more information on flu prevention from the CDC.

**National Preparedness Month.** This September, [Ready.gov](#) launches its National Preparedness Month ([NPM](#)) campaign focusing on planning, with an overarching theme "Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. You Can." The goal of NPM is to increase the overall number of individuals, families, and communities that engage in preparedness actions at home, work, business, school, and place of worship. The NPM Social Media tool kit contains key marketing and preparedness messaging to print or share on your social media channels. Click [HERE](#) for more detailed information from Ready.gov on how you can help take action to prepare!