



Safe-Wise Consulting wishes you a safe and happy new year!

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CPSC Hails Successes of Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act as Law Hits 10-Year Mark. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's ([CPSC](#)) [Pool Safely](#) campaign marks the 10-year anniversary of the [Virginia Graeme Baker \(VGB\) Pool & Spa Safety Act](#), being signed into law by President George W. Bush. The VGB Act is one of the reasons for great improvements in water safety and drowning prevention, including a full decade with zero drain entrapment-related deaths involving children in public pools and spas. "CPSC's *Pool Safely* campaign exists because of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act," said CPSC Acting Chairman Ann Marie Buerkle. "These achievements over the past 10 years would not be possible without the work of the dedicated people of the water safety community. [This year's announcement](#) of a 17 percent decrease in fatal drownings among young children in pools and spas highlights the progress made." Click [HERE](#) to read complete news release.

Ensuring Compliance with the Updated Drain Cover Standard is the title of a December 2017 [Aquatics International](#) article by [Steve Barnes](#), chairman of the APSP-16 Standard Writing Committee and the [APSP](#) Technical Committee. The article states, as the drain cover standard cited in the federal pool and spa safety law has been rewritten, it becomes apparent that entrapment safety is about more than the drain. Ten years ago, this month, the [Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act](#) was signed into federal law. At the time, it plunged the pool, spa and hot tub world into turmoil. Public facilities were hit especially hard, as they had one year to outfit pools with compliant drain covers. Some were forced to close when these products were nowhere to be found. Head's up! The drain cover standard named in VGB is changing in 2018. Are we in for more turmoil? Not if professionals learn how to implement the new requirements. Here are some of the very basics in ensuring that a pool is compliant. Click [HERE](#) to read the full article.

The Frankenstein Effect: Misclassifying Your Volunteers. The Non-Profit Risk Management Center ([NRM](#)) team fields lots of questions about worker classification. If you misclassify a worker, you increase the likelihood of various downside risks, including financial penalties and poor morale. Read about [The Frankenstein Effect](#) to prevent your nonprofit from creating a misclassified monster risk. Dig in deeper with their article [Employee or Volunteer - What's the Difference?](#)

Save the Date: Safe + Sound Week 2018. The Occupational Health & Safety Administration's ([OSHA](#)) second annual [Safe + Sound Week](#) will be held Aug. 13-19, 2018. The event is a nationwide effort to raise awareness of the value of workplace safety and health programs, which can help employers and workers identify and manage workplace hazards before they cause an injury or illness, improving a company's financial bottom line. Throughout the week, organizations are encouraged to host events and activities that showcase the core elements of an effective safety and health program, including: management leadership, worker participation, and finding and fixing workplace hazards. For the latest news and information, [sign up for email updates](#) or [follow on Twitter](#).

Did you see this in the last E-news?

What does HIPAA mean for your organization? The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ([HIPAA](#)) of 1996 is a US Law that sets data privacy and security standards for the safeguarding of protected health information ([PHI](#)). There are five sections called Titles, and the most relevant from a security perspective is Title II which gives the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ([HHS](#)) the power to establish national standards for the health care industry when processing electronic transactions. Title II also requires health care organizations to secure electronic access to PHI to remain in compliance. If your organization delivers programs like or similar to a Center for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) recognized [lifestyle change program](#) or Diabetes Prevention Program ([DPP](#)), all employees, consultants and contractors involved in this important work are subject to HIPAA. To be in compliance with HIPAA, identified employees, consultants and contractors must complete certain [HIPAA privacy and security trainings](#). Click [HERE](#) for HIPAA FAQ's for Professional from HHS.

New Resource: Zone Coverage / Surveillance Plan Considerations. Aquatic facilities should establish a lifeguard(s) [zone coverage / surveillance plan](#). This plan details the specific areas of scanning responsibility for an on-duty lifeguard. When establishing a zone coverage / surveillance plan ensure that:

- All areas of the water (bottom, middle, and top) are covered and can be seen by a lifeguard
- There is overlapping coverage when more than one lifeguard is performing surveillance
- Lifeguards have clear, unobstructed views of their zones
- The size and shape of each zone is appropriate for the facility and allow for appropriate response times

Facilities should post diagrams or charts showing the size, shape and boundaries of each zone. These can change throughout the day and season, depending on the number of patrons, types and variety of activities, time of day and environmental conditions, such as glare from the sun. Click [HERE](#) to view the full Zone Coverage / Surveillance Plan Considerations document available on the [Resource Library](#).