



Situational Awareness

FOR SUPERVISION STAFF

Agenda

- What is situational awareness?
- Why do we need situational awareness?
- How is situational awareness used in my position?
- How do I improve my situational awareness?

What is situational awareness?

- **Situational Awareness** is being aware of what is happening around you in terms of where you are, where you are supposed to be, and whether anyone or anything around you is a threat to your health and safety.
- Our knowledge, experience, and education enables us to understand what is going on around us and helps us to determine if it is safe. This means that everyone's **situational awareness** is individual and potentially different.

Routine tasks = low situational awareness

THE MORE YOU DO SOMETHING, THE MORE LIKELY COMPLACENCY WILL SET IN.
SITUATIONAL AWARENESS IS DECREASED.

The background is a deep blue gradient. On the right side, there are several curved, concentric lines that create a sense of depth and movement, resembling a tunnel or a stylized eye. On the left side, there is a faint, repeating pattern of binary code (0s and 1s) in a lighter blue shade.

Why do we need situational awareness?

Awareness Matters

How aware are you about what is
happening in your environment?



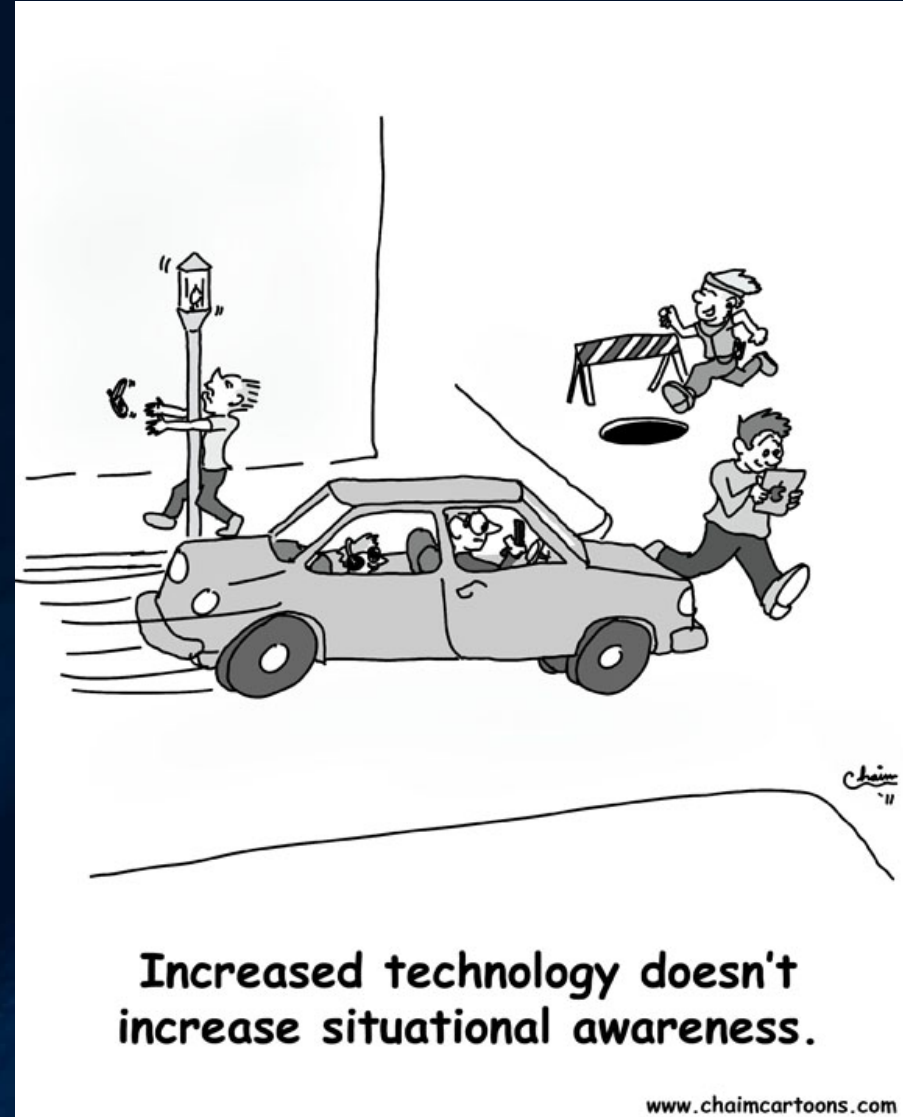
SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Yeah it's important

Cooper's Awareness Color Code

Cooper's Color Codes	
WHITE	Unprepared and unready to take action. If you are attacked in White you will probably die unless your adversary is totally inept.
YELLOW	Prepared, alert and relaxed. Good situational awareness.
ORANGE	Specific alert to probably danger. Ready to take action.
RED	Action Mode. Totally committed to the emergency at hand.
BLACK	System overload. Breakdown of physical & mental Performance.

Situational awareness is a mindset not a skill.



Ask yourself these questions:

- Do you regularly scan your environment for potential danger or threats?
- Do you take note of entrances and exits when in a new location?
- Do you make a point of noticing the people around you?
- Do you check behind yourself while walking?
- Do you avert your eyes when approached by a stranger?
- Do you sharpen your observation skills by taking note of hair color, facial hair, eye color, license plates, etc.?

Ask yourself these questions:

- Are you often startled by people who are suddenly in your space?
- Do you check the back seat of your car before getting in?
- In the event of an incident of violence at your job or school, do you have an escape plan?
- If stopped by a police officer, do you roll your window all the way down to hand over license and registration?
- When in a restaurant or crowded public place, do you orient yourself where you can see the main entrance?
- When stopped in traffic, do you allow enough space between you and the car in front of you to maneuver out of your lane if need be?

Recognizing a Developing Situation

Baseline SA

- Your individual situation on a regular day is your baseline situational awareness.
- Understanding your baseline will help you to determine if there is something out of the ordinary occurring.

PAY ATTENTION!!!

JUST
DOESN'T
LOOK
RIGHT

Messengers of Intuition

- Nagging feelings
- Jokes or humor
- Wonder
- Curiosity
- Hunches
- Doubt
- Persistent thoughts
- Apprehension
- Anxiety
- Hesitation
- Gut feelings
- Suspicion

Anticipating Fights

Pre-Assaultive Threat Indicators

- Someone who is considering launching a physical attack is undergoing physiological changes in preparation:
 - Adrenalin released
 - Blood flow restricted
 - Increased breathing rate to elevate oxygen levels
- These physical pressures along with the psychological pressures often lead to the person exhibiting leakage cues, physical indicators that they are preparing for physical conflict.

Leakage Cues Before Fights

FIGHT NOT IMMINENT BUT POSSIBLE

- Head, neck, shoulders go back (person making themselves look bigger)
- Face is red, twitching, jerking
- Lips pushed forward, baring teeth (you see the same things in dogs before attack)
- Breathing is fast and shallow (oxygenating the body, preparing for 'fight or flight', hyper vigilance)
- Beads of sweat appear about the face and neck
- 'Thousand-mile glare'
- Exaggerated movements
- Finger pointing/ head pecking
- Totally ignores you
- Gives you excessive attention during normal conversation, such as direct, uninterrupted eye contact
- Goes from totally un-cooperative to totally cooperative (people do not go from hot to cold, they de-escalate over time)
- Acts stoned or drunk
- Directs anger towards other inanimate items such as tables, chairs, walls

Intervention

- Focus your awareness on the situation at hand.
- Be assertive but not threatening.
- Use calm tone of voice.
- Separate involved students from the group (remove the audience).
- Use conflict resolution strategies to mediate the disagreement.

Leakage Cues Before Fights

FIGHT IS IMMINENT

- Face goes from red to white (during a physical confrontation the blood will leave the surface of the body and pool to the big muscles and internal organs of the body needed for survival)
- Lips tighten over teeth
- Breathing is fast and deep
- Change of stance, their body blades and shoulder drops
- Hands closed into a fist (not uncommon to see the whites of knuckles due to hands being so tight)
- Bobbing up and down or rocking back and forth on feet (this is the body's way to hide/mask the initial movement of a first strike)
- Target glance (here you will see your opponent look to where he is going to hit, or where he is going to run/escape)
- Putting head and shin down (body wants to protect the airway, this action does so to a degree)
- Eyebrows brought forward into a frown (again the body wants to naturally protect the visual system, this action does so to a degree)
- Stops all movements/ freezes in place
- Dropping center or lowering of body (no different than a cat or dog getting ready to pounce)
- Shedding clothes (very common, you will see your attacker take his hat, coat, shirt or bag off just prior to the assault)
- One syllable replies (go from full sentences to one syllable replies - reptilian brain is clicking in)

Intervention

- Bring what you are observing about their behavior to their attention. They may not know what their bodies are doing as they are subconscious movements.
- This removes the element of surprise. Many fighters/attackers will not fight if they lose that advantage.
 - “You know, when your hands are balled into fists and you turn your body like that, it looks like you are going to fight.”
- Separate the students from the rest of the group (remove the audience).

Pre-Attack Indicators of Violence

Physical Indicators

Minimizing door-to-door distance from vehicle (parking in fire lanes)

Low familiarity with area

Nervousness

Mental discomfort

Tunnel vision/1,000-yard stare

Repeated comments and/or prayer

Muttering

Difficulty making decisions

Trouble communicating

Repeated entries/exits to area



Behavioral Indicators

Oversized or loose fitting clothes
Clothes not appropriate for event/weather

Keeping hands in pockets and otherwise
concealing hands

Repositioning weapon
(confirmation touch)

Small bulges near waste or hip

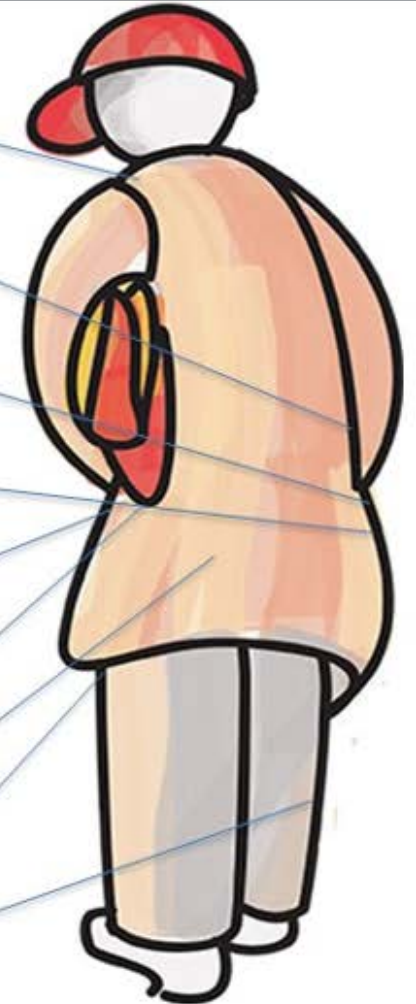
Adjusting waistband or clothing

Undue attention to carried objects

Oversized torso or bulky jacket/vest

Favoring one side (strong side)

Blading
(turning body to protect weapon)



Evan

