

Situational Awareness
“Lightening Round”

30 Situational Awareness Barriers

Presented at:

Fire Department Instructor’s Conference

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Situational Awareness Matters!

St. Paul, Minnesota

www.SAMatters.com

Situational awareness

Your ability to perceive AND understand what is happening in your environment and then, in turn, be able to accurately predict future events… in time to avoid bad outcomes.

Flawed Situational Awareness is never the root cause of a casualty or near-miss. It’s a symptom. Barriers that flaw situational awareness are the root cause.

Barriers

There are over 100 barriers that can flaw situational awareness. This program is an introduction to 30 barriers.

1. Pre-Arrival Lens
2. Confirmation Bias
3. Stress-induced narrowing of sensory input
4. Task Fixation
5. Task Saturation
6. Multitasking
7. Mission Myopia
8. Urgency
9. Time Distortion
10. Over Confidence
11. Complacency
12. Fear
13. Peer Pressure, Supervisor Pressure, Cultural Influence
14. Bad Habits, Unconscious Incompetence
15. Wishful Thinking, Optimism & Denial
16. Overwhelm
17. Complexity
18. Short-Term Memory Overload
19. Confabulation
20. Auditory Exclusion
21. Stress Induced Blindness, Motion-Induced Blindness
22. Hallucinations
23. Change Blindness
24. Flawed Perceptions
25. Lack of Shared Mental Models
26. Distractions
27. Miscommunications
28. Flawed Expectations (Overconfidence in Crew Ability)
29. Failure to understand negative clues & cues
30. Hindsight Bias

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