



Creating the
THINKING
first responder.

Dr. Richard B. Gasaway
Fire Chief (ret.)

Situational Awareness Matters

www.SAMatters.com

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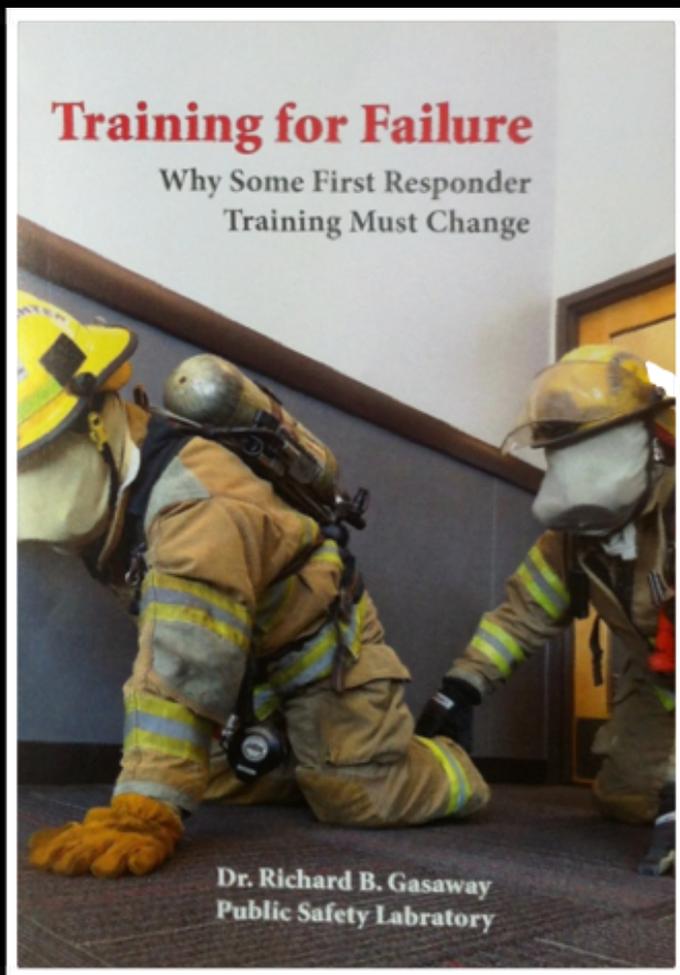


If you are interested in
hosting a program
please contact
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This program based
on the highly popular

Training for Failure DVD.

If you are interested in
purchasing it:

Click the “store” link on the
SAMatters.com website

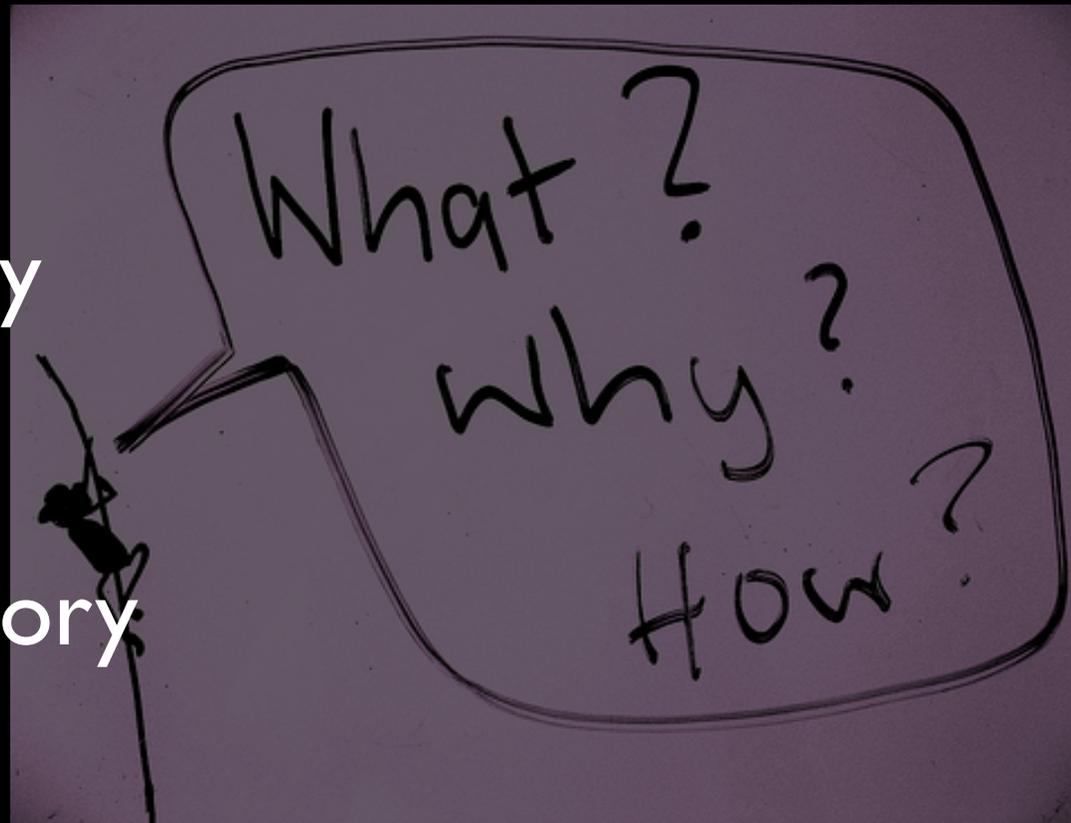
Training develops two types of memory.

Cognitive

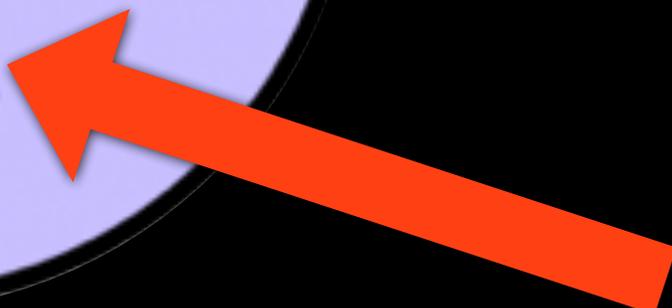
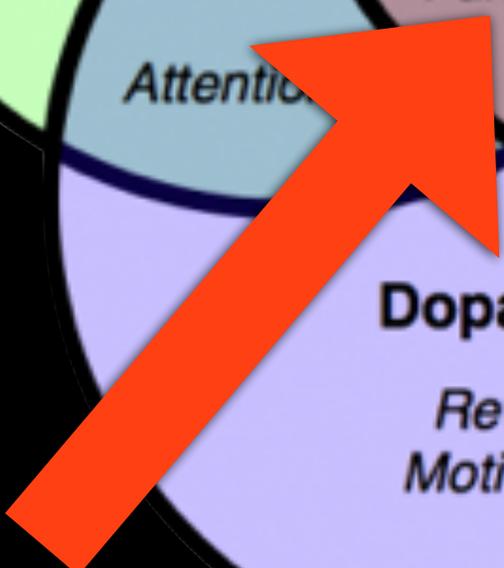
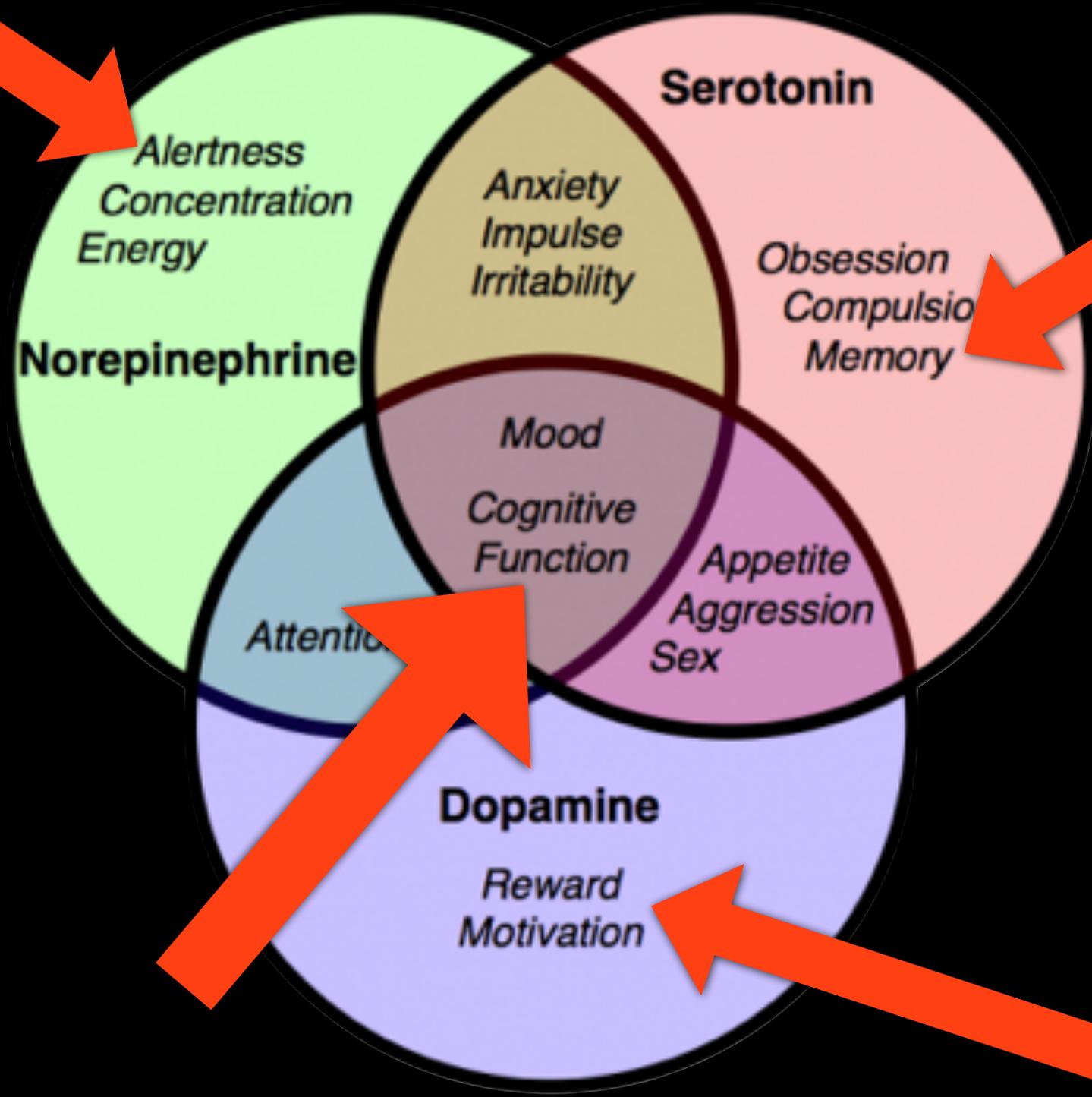
- Thinking memory

Kinesthetic

- Movement memory



Drugs play a big role in
thinking and movement memory.



Practice
makes
permanent.

- 
- ✓ Get out of bed
 - ✓ Make coffee
 - ✓ Drink coffee
 - ✓ Take 'cat' nap
 - ✓ Go to lunch
 - ✓ Drink more coffee
 - ✓ Head home!
 - ✓ Switch to beer

Routines

Improve muscle memory

CREATURE OF HABIT



Stress induces automatic habitual performance.

Automatic Performance (robotic action)

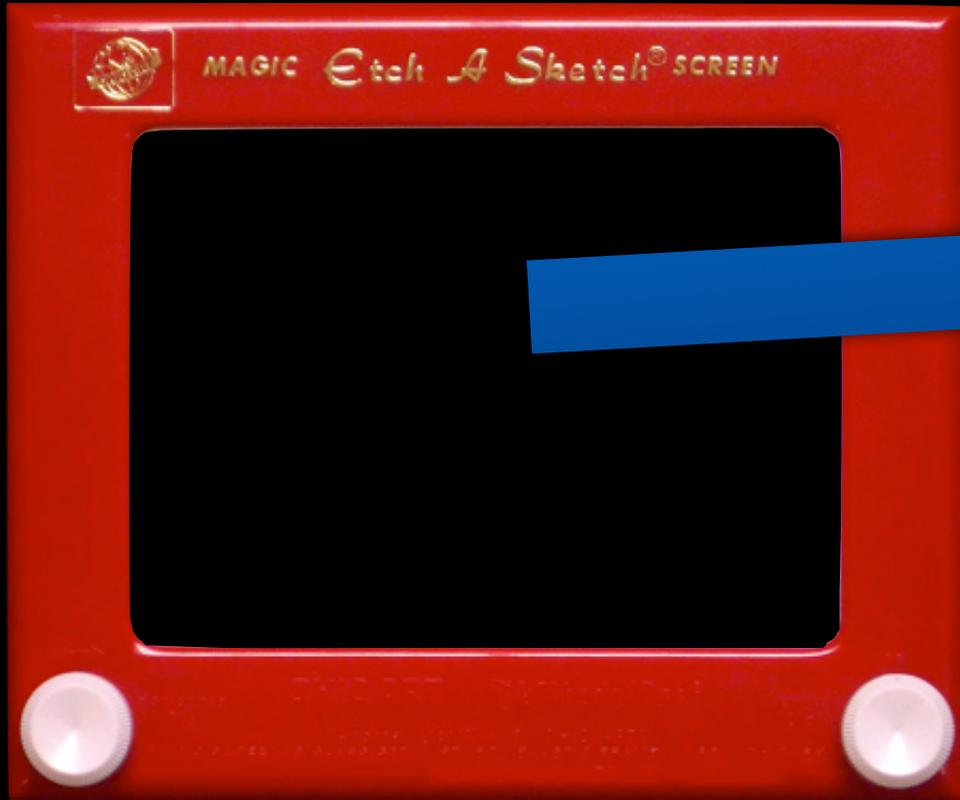


Subconscious Programming

HABIT



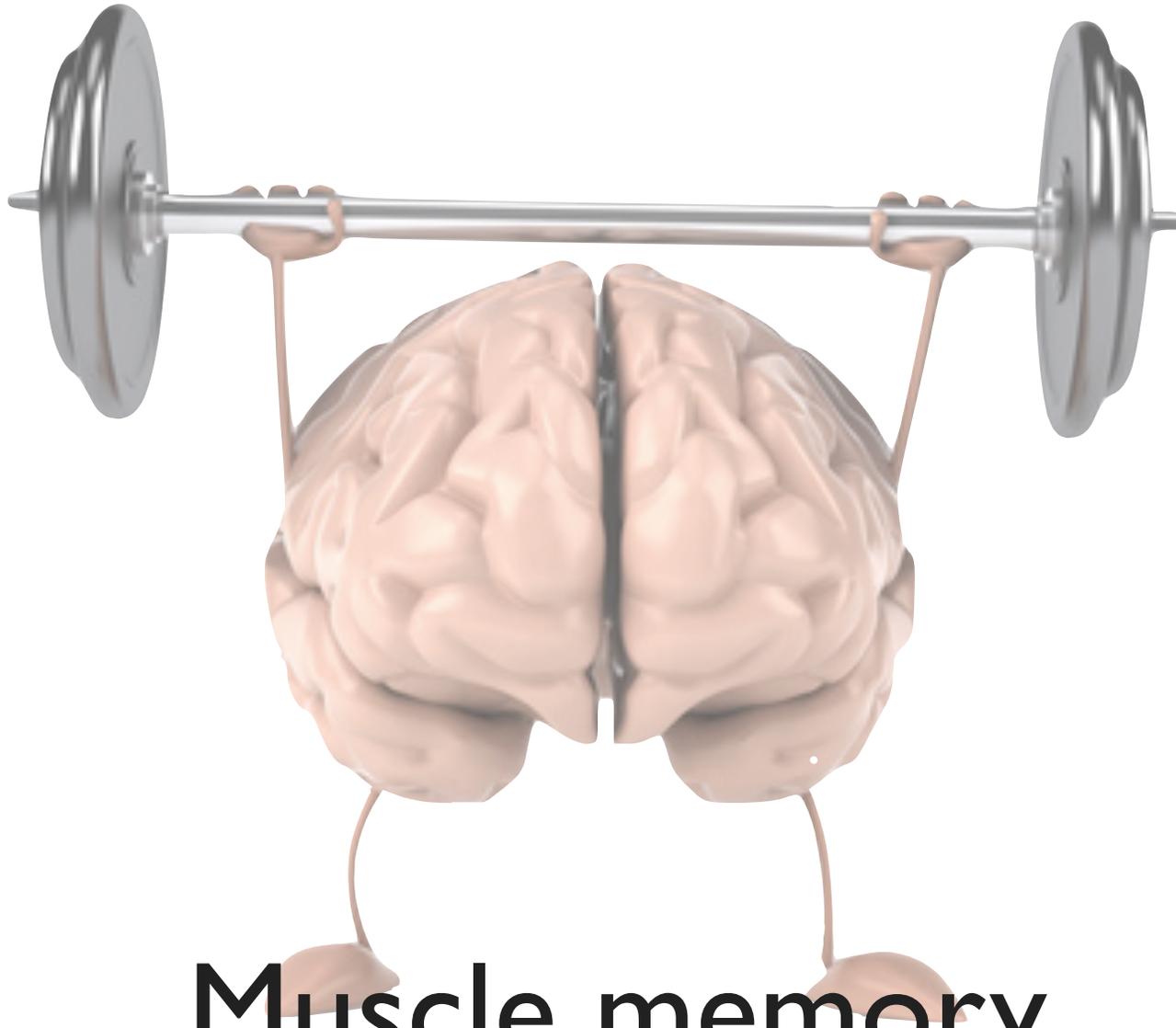
Automatic actions
that occur without
conscious awareness.



Performing an undesirable
action automatically...
without conscious thought.

Acting... without thinking.

Physical performance of tasks
are often based on...



Muscle memory.

An example of how training routines, stress & muscle memory can lead to acting without thinking.



FOX 9

EXCLUSIVE • FOX 9 EXCLUSIVE • FOX

AMY HOCKERT / KELCEY CARLSON

FOX 9

9:00 21°

ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING CAUGHT ON TAPE

My Confession

Examples of how some responders may be trained to act without thinking.

Let's talk patient care.



Every responder should
ensure a scene is safe
prior to engaging in
patient care.

What are the two most likely ways a firefighter will die while inside a residential dwelling fire?

Flashover

Collapse

Let's talk flashover.



Prior to entry into a structure fire, every firefighter should have concern for a flashover on their mind.



Let's talk collapse.

Prior to entry into a structure fire, every firefighter should have concern for a collapse on their mind.

Let's talk size-up...



Prior to entry into a structure fire, the first arriving officer should conduct a size-up.

The size-up becomes the foundation for situational awareness.

Let's talk Go or No-Go



The decision to go...
or not to go...
should be made by
first-in officer or IC.

Let's talk Hoseline selection



The decision for hose line selection should be made by the officer leading the crew or the IC.



My first
training
fire...

Let's talk vertical ventilation.



A fire example of
acting without
thinking.



Sounding the roof

Let's talk victim search.

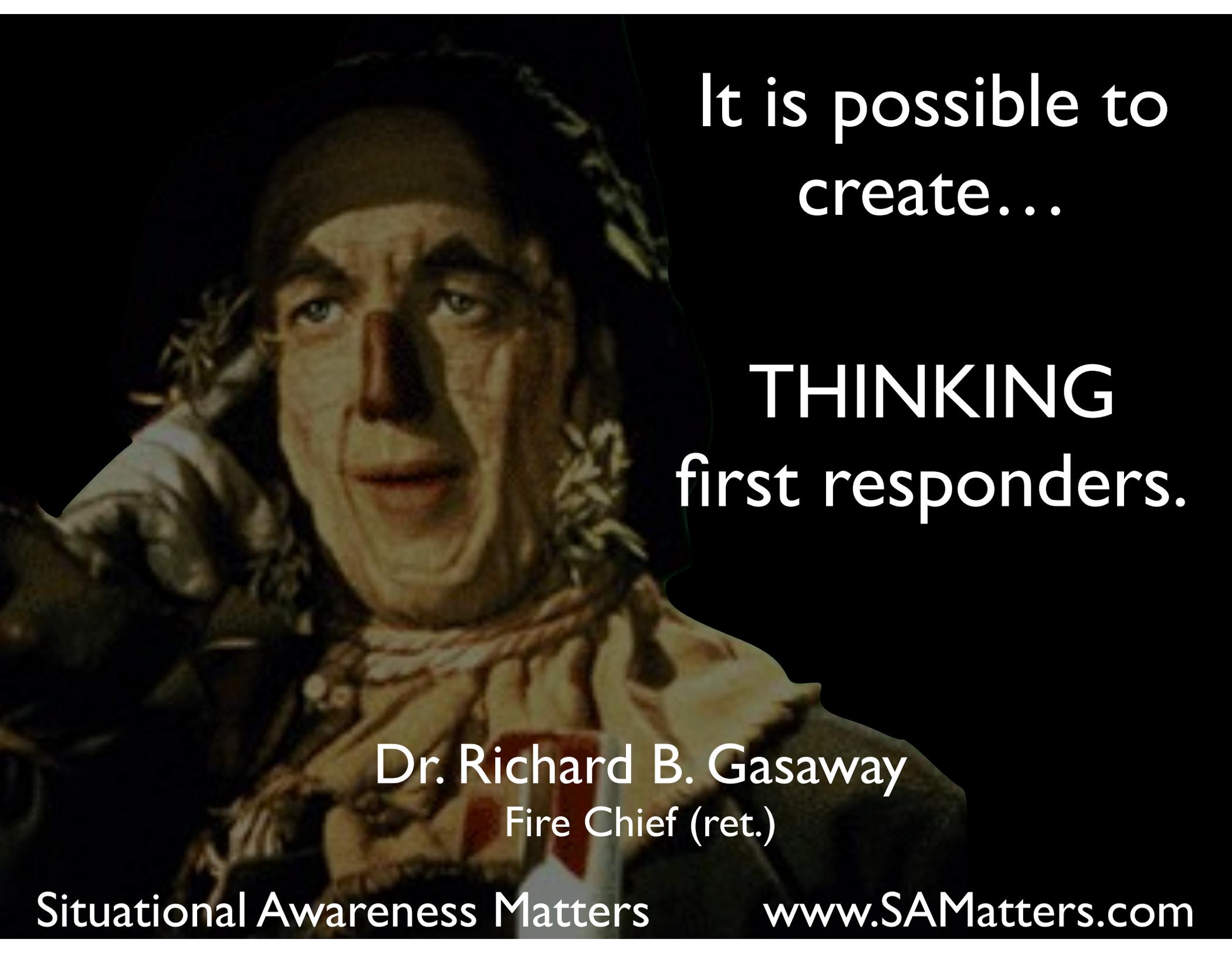


Size-up

Think

Decide

Act



It is possible to
create...

THINKING
first responders.

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