Situational Awareness and Decision making under stress

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Welcome
The foundation for good decision making is situational awareness.
Situational awareness

Ability to perceive AND understand what is happening around you (in context to how time is passing) and then, in turn, being able to accurately predict future events… in time to avoid bad outcomes.
Perception

Using the senses to capture information… (clues and cues) about the current situation.

• I pay attention…
• I keep my head on a swivel…
• I look up, down, and all around…
• I actively listen…
• I size-up a problem first…
Focus on the 5-7 most critical pieces of information.
Visual
Audible
Smell
Taste
Sensation
Sensory Integration
Understanding
Making sense out of what you:
See, hear, feel, taste & smell

Comprehension
Moment of clarity
Ask yourself: “What does this mean?”
Ask yourself:

“Is this what I expected?”
It seems so easy...

See... and understand.

Hear... and understand.
Situational Awareness Barriers

Anything that impacts your:

Perception
Understanding
Prediction

There are over 100 barriers that can impact your situational awareness.
Sensory Conflict

Eyes A

Ears B
Mind Drift
Where in your brain does your puzzle of understanding get assembled?
It truly is your Magic Screen
Taste
Audible
Sensation
Visual
Smell
Memory Search
The capacity of long-term memory:

10x all the information on the Internet.
Fact

You can only consciously access:

5% of our long-term memory data base.
Memory Recall

Can trigger the 6th sense.
Intuition
Knowing...
Without knowing...
How you know.
Your Red Flag Warning System

Intuition
Prediction

Anticipating future events before they happen.
Begin with the end in mind.
Ask yourself:

What’s going to happen if we do nothing but watch?
Best Practice

Ask yourself:

How long is it going to take for a bad outcome to occur?
Prediction

Every event unfolds at a certain pace (speed).

Keeping track of the passage of time.
The ability to perceive AND understand what is happening in your environment (in context to how time is is passing) and then, in turn, be able to accurately predict future events... in time to avoid bad outcomes.
Prediction

Set Expectations
Best Practice

Ask yourself:

Can we change the outcome?
Ask yourself:

Are the conditions right?
Ask yourself:
Do we have the right resources?
Ask yourself:

How much time do we have?
Ask yourself:
Can we operate faster than conditions are changing?
Your Mind’s Eye
Situational Awareness Development Process.
Sensory inputs

Sight + sound + taste
+ smell + feel
Visual imagery

Pictures drawn on the mental sketch pad.
Memory Search
Explicit & Tacit Knowledge
Doom - Bliss - Nothing
Forecasting

Visualize outcomes prior to engagement.
Dynamic Decision Making Process

Size-up the situation.
Figure out what the problem is before you throw a solution around.
Dynamic Decision Making Process

Compare the current situation to past experiences.

Identify typical solutions.
Detect atypical problems and seek explanations for them.
Dynamic Decision Making Process

Run mental options of decision choices in your head.
Dynamic Decision Making Process

Make your decision and an action plan.
Dynamic Decision Making Process

Monitor conditions and compare them to your expectations.
Dynamic Decision Making Process

Repeat situational awareness process continually.
You will also receive the SAMatters monthly newsletter.
Helping individuals and teams improve high-risk decision making.