

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Situational awareness is important to everyone — it is important that everyone is aware of their surroundings and the potential hazards they face.

It is also important that each individual is looking out for their own safety as well as that of their coworkers.

Even the most experienced people can lack situational awareness — especially when doing tasks that have become routine.



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.

See something? Say something.

If you see an unsafe situation or spot a hazard, don't walk by — take responsibility and deal with it.

Be curious and alert

- Is there a visible health or safety threat?
- Is there an individual acting out of the ordinary who might pose a risk?
- Are there contextual clues that indicate something is “off”?
- Is there anything I can do that would reduce the threat?
- Should I act now or later?

Develop your situational awareness

Get in the habit of regularly making a quick mental assessment of your working environment. When doing so:

- Minimize distractions and multitasking to stay focused, alert and vigilant.
- Be mindful of your surroundings and the overall environment.
- Pay attention to others around you and anything that might seem out of place.
- Ask yourself, “Is this safe?”
- Identify potential hazards.
- Report hazards to your supervisor in a timely manner to eliminate the hazard.
- Supervisors should send communications to staff to increase awareness of or handle the removal of the hazard.
- Look out for each other, and help others avoid hazards.
- Be aware of actions, activities, and occurrences that might affect you.