

Situational Awareness

1. Overview

- a. What is Situational Awareness?
- b. Decision Making During Potentially High-Stress Situations
- c. Communication
- d. Physical and Mental stress
- e. Employee Rights and Responsibilities

2. Situational awareness is

- a. Knowing what is going on all around you by having the ability to:
 - i. Identify
 - ii. Process
 - iii. Comprehend
 - iv. Respond to
- b. Identifying critical elements of information
- c. Processing critical elements of information
 - i. Training
 1. Know how to identify different safety hazards within the worksite, and what could create a hazard in the future. Have it programmed within your mind of what could happen?
 - ii. To know what needs to be identified as a hazard we need to look at:
 1. Past
 2. Present
 3. Future
- d. Comprehending the critical elements of information
- e. Blocking Situational awareness
 - i. Human
 - ii. Equipment
 - iii. Weather
 - iv. Chemicals
 - v. Electronics
 - vi. Many Many more...

3. Decision making in potentially high stress situations

- a. Activities outlining the importance of high stress situations

4. Communication

- a. Poor communications.
 - i. No-one knows you need help
 - ii. Not Given enough information
 - iii. Given too much information
 - iv. Who is in charge of what

- v. Unanswered questions

5. Physical and mental stress

- a. Many factors can induce high stress, and high stress can affect our judgement, and our decision making abilities.
 - i. Trying to keep a clear and level head is difficult but possible.
 - ii. Look at variables subjectively and choose the safest option
- b. As soon as you can identify a hazard in the workplace you should do everything possible to fix the hazard
 - i. Communicate the hazard to others
 - ii. Eliminate the hazard all together
 - iii. Hierarchy of controls
 - iv. If you are unable to fix it: get someone who can & protect workers until it is corrected
- c. Maintaining
 - i. When changes occur within the workplace, let others know and hazards that might be present
 - ii. Monitor the performance of everyone on site
 - iii. Give safety information to anyone who is on site
 - iv. Identify potential or existing problems
 - v. (i.e. equipment-related or operational)
 - vi. Demonstrate awareness (know what process are happening)
 - vii. Explain what should be done to eliminate the hazards
 - viii. Eliminate hazards and protect workers

1. Outline employee rights

- a. Employee rights and responsibilities
 - i. To assure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women
 - ii. By authorizing enforcement of the standards developed under the Act
 - iii. By assisting and encouraging the States in their efforts to assure safe and healthful working conditions
 - iv. By providing for research, information, education, and training in the field of occupational safety and health
- b. A right to
 - i. A safe and healthful workplace
 - ii. Know about hazardous chemicals
 - iii. Information about injuries and illnesses in your workplace
 - iv. Complain or request hazard correction from employer
 - v. File a confidential complaint with OSHA to have their workplace inspected.
 - vi. Receive information and training about hazards, methods to prevent harm, and the OSHA standards that apply to their workplace. The training must be done in a language and vocabulary workers can understand.
 - vii. Get copies of their workplace medical records.
 - viii. Participate in an OSHA inspection and speak in private with the inspector.

- ix. File a complaint with OSHA if they have been retaliated or discriminated against by their employer as the result of requesting an inspection or using any of their other rights under the OSH Act.
 - x. File a complaint if punished or discriminated against for acting as a “whistleblower” under the additional 20 federal statutes for which OSHA has jurisdiction.
- c. Whistleblower Protection
- i. OSHA's Whistleblower Protection Program enforces the whistleblower provisions of more than twenty whistleblower statutes protecting employees who report violations of various workplace safety,