



Washington Rural Counties Insurance Program

Best Practices: Situational Awareness

Best Practices
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www.wrcip.us

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding this risk alert, please contact your local broker, or your Clear Risk Solutions Risk Manager directly at 800.407.2027.

Situational Awareness...it's paramount to your safety!

Situational awareness is the ability to utilize a "360 mindset" to identify, process, and understand what is happening around you while thinking ahead to prevent and/or mitigate potential safety incidents. It requires you to **STAY ALERT** and focused on your surroundings, drawing upon your experiences, training, skills, and senses to evaluate what is happening around you. Situational awareness is the ability to be proactive and flexible to ensure your safety and the safety of those entrusted to you.

STAY ALERT:

Step out of the smart phone and electronic zone – put your devices away and pay attention!

Trust your gut instincts

Always stay relaxed and focused on the task at hand

Yield...and don't give into temptations to take shortcuts – avoid rushing or getting in a hurry

Always

- Employ the 360 rule for safety – continually look up, down, and all around you
- Have an exit strategy – **ALWAYS** know where your exits are

Learn to protect your back and sides

- Make sure you have a full view of everything around you
- Make a habit of positioning yourself to utilize walls and other barriers to protect your back and sides, but be careful not to back yourself into a corner

Engage **ALL** your senses for safety awareness

- Sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste
- Be aware of body language, both your own, as well as others, to avoid being attacked without warning

Report the following situations immediately

- All accidents, injuries, and close calls/near misses to your supervisor
- Any safety hazards or concerns to your safety officer, a safety committee member, or your supervisor
- ANY suspicious persons, activity, or behavior to your supervisor, management team, or law enforcement immediately

Think... Ask... Plan...

- **Think** the job through thoroughly and conduct a job site review **before** beginning
- **Ask** for clarification. Your questions could make all the difference
- **Plan** ahead, anticipate potential problems, and take time to see the plan through

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