



Everyone Goes Home “SAFE”!

SITUATION AWARENESS

Situational Awareness is an individual’s ability to recognize what is going on around them so that they understand how elements in the work environment can impact personal performance and then using this information to act.

Situational Awareness

It is crucial that you maintain a high level of situational awareness during the completion of each job task. Inadequate situational awareness is one of the principal components in accidents caused by human error. If you are required to complete tasks that are complicated, it is critical that you maintain a detailed level of situational awareness. One method for attaining situational awareness uses three steps in the development process. These steps are Awareness, Understanding, and Visualization.

Step 1 – Awareness

This is your ability to recognize or detect relevant elements in the work environment. The element(s) can be people, an object, event or other factor. You may also recognize things like the person’s condition, an object’s position or the activity associated with an event.

Step 2 – Understanding

This is the ability to mentally combine all the elements identified in step one and begin to recognize their relationship to each other.

Step 3 – Visualization

This involves a person’s ability to visualize

how the combined elements can jeopardize the safe completion of immediate or future job tasks. By using the elements to form a mental picture of what might happen, you can determine how the elements will impact personnel safety.

Barriers to Effective Situational Awareness

Complacency - When work tasks are routine, and/or when the focus is not on the task at hand, complacency can occur. *Challenging yourself and/or your co-workers to be prepared for contingencies can deter complacency.*

Poor Communication – When information has not been received, understood or has not been passed along, it can affect your level of situational awareness. *Challenging yourself to properly communicate issues to co-workers can ensure hazards are mitigated.*

Other Barriers include: Fatigue, Stress, Workload/Overload and Human Error.

Situational Awareness

Situational awareness does not ensure that you will make good decisions. However, it is important that you possess the ability to recognize potential hazards. Once you recognize a potential hazard or hazards, you will be better able to visualize an outcome. This will enable you to make informed decisions about your safety and the safety of your co-workers.