



BEAWARE: AN INTRODUCTION TO SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

PARTICIPANT GUIDE





BeAware: An Introduction to Situational Awareness



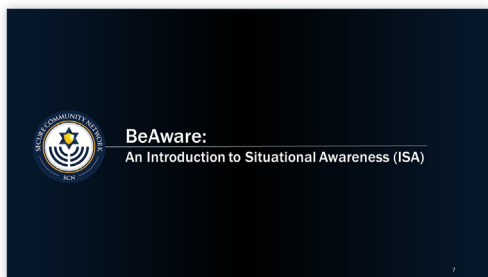
The Secure Community Network (SCN), a nonprofit 501(c)(3), is the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America. Founded in 2004 under the auspices of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, SCN works on behalf of 146 Federations, the 50 largest Jewish nonprofit organizations in North America, and over 300 independent communities as well as with other partners in the public, private, nonprofit, and academic sectors to ensure the safety, security, and resiliency of the Jewish people.

SCN serves as the Jewish community's formal liaison with federal law enforcement and coordinates closely with federal, state, and local law enforcement partners on safety and security issues related to the Jewish community. Through its Operations Center and Duty Desk, SCN analyzes intelligence and information, providing timely, credible threat and incident information to both law enforcement and community partners. SCN's team of law enforcement, homeland security, and military professionals proactively works with communities and partners across North America to develop and implement strategic frameworks that enhance the safety and security of the Jewish people. This includes developing best practice policies and emergency plans and procedures; undertaking threat and vulnerability assessments of facilities; providing critical, real-world training and exercises to prepare for threats and hazards; offering consultation on safety and security matters; and providing response and crisis management support during critical incidents.

SCN is dedicated to ensuring that Jewish organizations and communities, as well as Jewish life and culture, can not only exist safely and securely, but flourish.



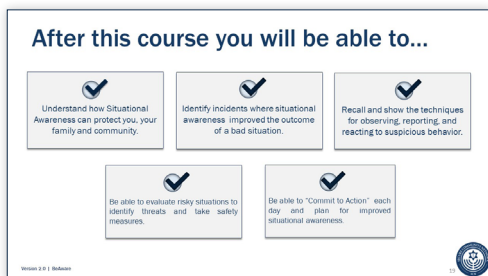
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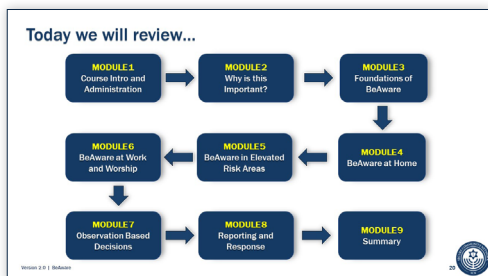
This course offers information about the concepts of situational awareness (SA) to better evaluate the potential risks around us. Techniques related to recalling important details and facts will be shared to improve the participants ability to observe, react to, and report suspicious activity.



This visual representation demonstrated that SA is not a security skill, but rather a life skill. The topics we discussed here are applicable to all areas of daily life: at home, at work, and certainly while participating as a member of our community.



This course has five main objectives, as delineated here. SA is integral to protecting yourself and those around you and this course will provide the tools needed for you to Commit to Action.



This slide outlines the major areas we covered in the course. Once we complete the foundational elements, we will branch off into some practical areas to demonstrate how these concepts apply in a variety of settings, including gas stations, ATM locations, at home, and in rural and crowded areas. These are just a few of the scenarios during which you should BeAware.

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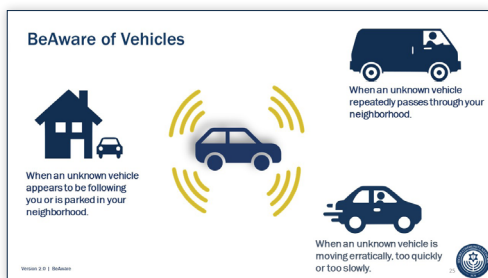
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One of the most important aspects of building SA is placing things in the proper context within the framework of what is “normal” or what is “ok.” Here, we see examples of suspicious behavior in various settings. These will help you make a judgment based on the context of situation instead of on unrelated circumstances.



SA includes paying attention to behaviors that may be cause for concern. These “approach behaviors” occur prior to an attack, perhaps when you are distracted. These behaviors may include someone with security measures or surveilling a location.



Vehicles are often involved in pre-attack behaviors and pose a greater risk for a mass casualty event given the nature of highspeed, high-weight attacks. Be aware of vehicles that seem out of place, follow you from a location, or are being driven erratically or quickly.

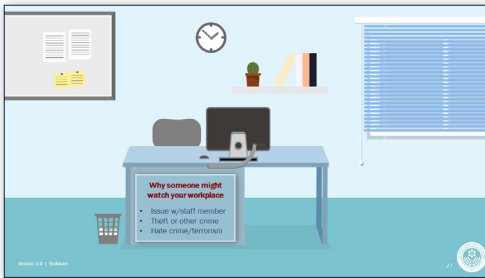


Although 2020 was a year where many people experienced limited in-person work and school due to COVID-19, we continued to see a rise in hate crimes in all areas of our daily lives. The statistics have one strong commonality over time – they are consistently on the rise.

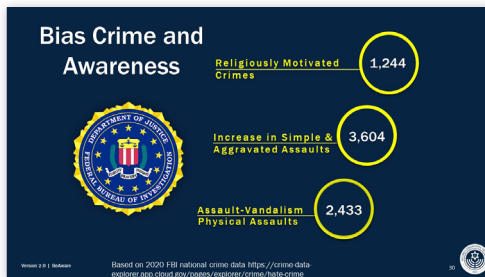
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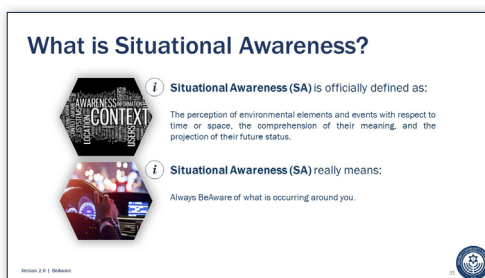
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The workplace is a particularly important area in which to maintain a sense of situational awareness. Conflicts between coworkers, as well as with supervisors and customers, are quite common. The workplace can be a high-stakes environment where people have a strong investment and dependency on keeping their source of income. The workplace can also be a place where targeted violence occurs; for example, the post office shootings that started in 1986 in Edmond, Oklahoma.



The FBI studies types of crimes and what motivates people to move commit them. In 2020, over 1,200 of these crimes had religious motivations. People often target others due to differences in religious beliefs, and these conflicts can be part of a hardened and fixed perspective. Many of these crimes have resulted in assaults or vandalism.



There are book definitions and real-world application definitions for SA. Although awareness of what is going on around you is important, you must also be aware of the current circumstances. For instance, someone who is trained to respond to hostility or aggression will behave differently when alone than when in the presence of children.



Balance exists between seeing a suspicious or unusual act and knowing when to share this information with authorities. Our advice is to always err on the side of caution and share concerns – but do so in a way that doesn't assume a negative motivation or jump to a conclusion. Avoid profiling people based on what they look like and instead focus on their behavior.

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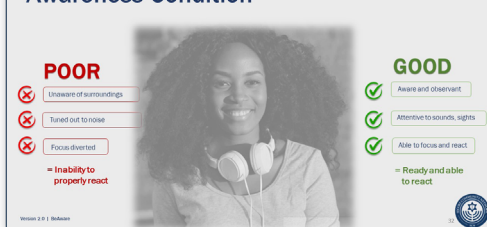
Why is it important to BeAware?



SA is not just a skill used to keep a person safe in an active shooter scenario, but it is also a generalized life skill. All of us, even before attending this training, have had experiences that help us recognize danger signs in our daily lives. The first step is to recognize the danger, followed by a commitment to action based on what is happening around us. A good example of this process is related to defensive driving, where the driver actively scans their surroundings to make proactive, protective decisions. To do this well, one must be

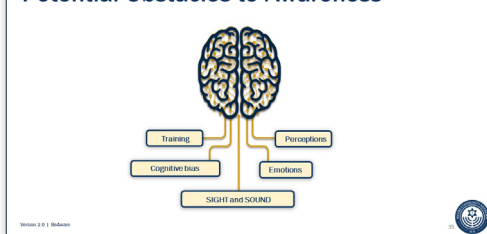
free of distractions, aware of common potential threats, and have the freedom to act (e.g., keeping your dominant hand available).

Awareness Condition



Here, we see examples of both effective and ineffective levels of awareness. While smartphones can offer useful (and sometimes not so useful) information, they can also remove us from a situational awareness mindset. This is a distraction that can easily turn dangerous. Resist the urge to “tune out” while traveling in public spaces with these devices (especially when using headphones). This small step is one you can take to enhance your ability to see and hear potential danger cues around you.

Potential Obstacles to Awareness



There are numerous biological and neurological factors that affect our situational awareness. These can include distraction by sights and sounds, emotions that may cloud our perception, and bias about potential threats. Our training provides ways to overcome these factors, allowing us to be more situationally aware.

Emotions Effect Awareness



Each of us experiences a range of moods and emotional states. When we are outside of a calm, cool, and collected state of mind, we may not react as well to dangerous situations. We aren't as observant of our surroundings. Our mood may distract us from noticing smaller details that could be critical clues to potential threats, and we are unable to as effectively draw upon our tool kit of responses.

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Every situation calls for a different level of awareness. Sitting in our living room may not call for the same SA as driving a vehicle. Driving on a sunny and clear day may not require the same SA that driving at night or in the rain or the snow does.

The Five Levels of Situational Awareness

Tuned Out. This level leaves us unaware of our surroundings. If you are tuned out from what is around you, make sure you are in a safe environment or are with someone who is paying attention to your surroundings. Military and police use the phrase “watching your six” to refer to watching what might be outside of your active sight (just as the 6:00 hour on a traditional clock would be behind you as you face 12:00).

Relaxed Awareness. You may be in this state in places where you know the people around you and/or there is an established safety protocol for entry. This may include when you are at a friend’s house with several people you know well or at a ticketed secure event.

Focused Awareness. In this level, there is no direct threat around you, but you are entering a space that presents a potential danger. This may include driving under adverse conditions, walking in a city you are unfamiliar with, or traveling in a place where a “be on alert” warning has been issued.

High Alert. In this level, there is an active threat or dangerous situation close by. This may include someone approaching you with a potential weapon, an erratic driver who has begun to lose control of their vehicle, or someone entering a previously safe space who begins to threaten those around them. Although it might feel safer to be on high alert all the time to reduce potential negative outcomes, there is a physical, cognitive and emotional cost associated with being on high alert for a continuous period of time. Think of a flashlight in a dark environment. Although it may be useful to leave it on the entire time, there should be some consideration for battery life.

Paralysis. Typically, paralysis occurs in the absence of training. Most people are scared and experience paralysis when they first encounter an actively dangerous situation. These situations are often outside of our experiences and comfort zone. The goal of this training is not to remove fear or panic in reaction to a dangerous situation, but rather to learn and train on the correct response until it becomes second nature.

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Situational Awareness | Driving



Tuned Out
Listening to radio, not paying attention.



Relaxed Awareness
Out for a drive, attending to traffic patterns.

The visual and instinctive metaphor of driving a vehicle is one most of us can connect with. Our levels of awareness (and corresponding responses) vary based on driving conditions, and it is important to create a buffer zone of time and space between our car and potential danger. Doing this helps with defensive driving, but it is also a powerful metaphor for our daily lives as we move about within our communities. What are some practical ways you attend to your environment while driving or traveling in uncertain conditions?

Situational Awareness | Driving



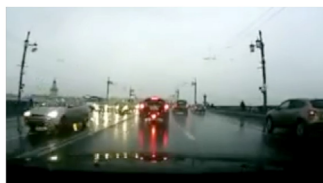
Focused Awareness
Rainy conditions and the wipers are going. You are tuned into what is happening around you.



High Alert
You see brake lights and are paying 100% attention to every detail.

During certain events and times, we have a heightened awareness while driving. Examples may include inclement weather, such as rain, wind, or snow, or external factors such as a near-miss accident, the proximity of an erratic driver, or warnings issued while driving through high-risk areas. A state of high alert occurs when there is an impending collision or if you identify a risk that, without intervention, will cause you harm. Can you think of some examples of similar situations that have occurred when were driving?

Situational Awareness | Driving



Paralysis
Reactions are frozen and you are unable to move as impact is imminent.

Paralysis occurs when a dangerous event is about to happen, including a car slamming on its brakes too late for you to stop, a dog running across the road in front of your car, or a sudden hail or rainstorm that completely blocks your ability to see. Many new cars have antilock brake systems to address this problem of drivers locking into a course of action such as slamming on the brakes.

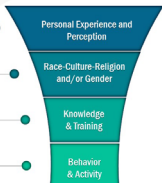
Processing Bias

How we see the world is often forged by our perceptions and what we experience personally

What we see is often seen through a variety of lenses: race, culture, religion, and gender identity

Improved knowledge and training will help filter bias and eliminate our reaction to appearance and stereotypes

GOOD situational awareness is based on behavior and activity **NOT** appearance or stereotype



We all have bias. Our bias is based on our experiences and are some of the most impactful filters we have when learning how to apply SA in our daily lives. Understanding and accepting that life experiences create biases allows us to properly examine and assess them when they arise. Bias based on any demographic descriptor (e.g., gender, class, sexual orientation, nationality, and religion) should be avoided because it is not only illegal and unethical, it can also blind us to the most important observables we should be looking for: behavior or actions.

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Think about the following mental states in relation to driving. Each has a unique impact on our ability to be situationally aware.

Oblivious: When we do not pay attention to our surroundings, we limit our reaction times to and overall preparedness for potential threats.

Angry: In the heat of passion, we may engage in activities that we would otherwise avoid. Road rage provides a clear example of this kind of escalation and risk.

Confused: If we are lost or out of sorts when driving, we may miss turns and traffic signals or be forced into making quick decisions rather than thoughtful ones.

Intoxicated: This type of impairment reduces reaction time and contributes to unawareness of our surroundings.

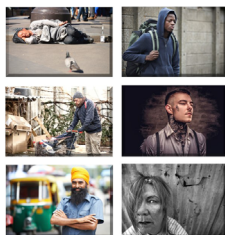
Distracted: Distraction leads to missed observations that could help us better prepare for dangerous situation. Texting and driving leads to poor reaction times when encountering unforeseen pedestrians or adverse road conditions.

Frustrated: Frustration can result in rushed and less thoughtful decision-making.

Emotional: The ups and downs of an emotional mental state can lead to varied attention paid to threats or safety concerns, inconsistent reactions, and over- or under-reacting to circumstances.

BeAware of Bias

- Assuming someone is dangerous or suspicious based on their clothing, hygiene, language, nationality, religious beliefs, mental illness or skin color simply doesn't work.
- The FBI, DHS, Secret Service all teach behavioral threat indicators rather than relying on a profile.
- Share a concern if have one, but do so in a way that is empathetic and avoids assumptions and stereotypes.



We must use caution when making judgments about those who are different from us in their behavior or dress or those who may have a mental illness. Assumptions about dangerousness based on someone's appearance is akin to profiling, and this has been proven ineffective in assessing risk and determining dangerousness. Behavior that is threatening, causes a safety concern, or poses a security risk should be reported forward. However, reporting someone simply because they are different or unfamiliar to you is not an effective way to address potential risk.

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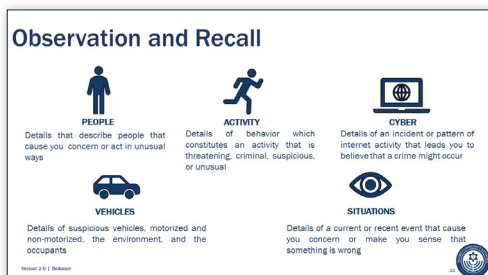


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In this video (from the Netflix series *Fauda*, which translates to chaos in Arabic), we see unconscious bias in action. Two terrorists dressed as off-duty Israeli soldiers are not searched by the checkpoint guards. While the two terrorists walk right through, the guards spend their time searching the trunk of a grandmother and interrogating an elderly man. This is an excellent example of how unconscious bias can work against us when using demographic descriptors to make decisions regarding SA. A more effective approach would be mitigate

this bias by searching everyone who passes through.



There are number of locations where we can apply SA. As you recall, SA is not only applicable when attending synagogues or Chabads. SA is useful in all aspects of our daily lives. It is important to be a good observer and communicator when at work or school, parenting children, taking money out of the ATM, socializing with friends or on vacation. As this slide shows, SA also applies to the online world. We will discuss this later in the program.



Although we need to prioritize our own safety (think of the airplane rule of putting on your oxygen mask on before helping others), observing and reporting suspicious behavior keeps the overall Jewish community safe. Because the ability to retain information and relay it to another person is learned, we will walk you through some practice exercises to help improve your ability to recognize and report suspicious behavior to law enforcement, leadership, and/or the SCN Duty desk. These exercises are known Keep In Memory (KIM) games.

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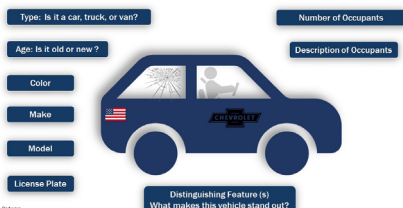
Practice 1 | Describe People



Let's begin by learning how to describe a person you perceive to be a potential threat. Here, we want to be factual, direct, and clear in our descriptions. We should not prioritize politeness or subtler communications that may misrepresent the facts at hand. For example, describing someone's gender as male-appearing or female-appearing would be reasonable. In social settings, we would be more aware of preferred pronouns.

The goal is to assess the individual's height, weight, skin tone, ethnicity (or ethnic appearance), and whether they might be armed. Although some may have more detailed knowledge of firearm types, simply stating whether the gun was a handgun or a long gun is all that is necessary. Other useful observations may include the individual's hair length and color, clothing, and any distinguishing features such as scars or tattoos that would allow responding law enforcement officers or others to easily identify them.

Practice 2 | Describe Vehicles



An excellent way to describe a vehicle is to focus on any of its distinctive details. This may include a sticker, a different type of wheel/rim, or a window that is broken or tinted. A brief description of its occupants (e.g., four white males or two black females), should accompany a vehicle description. Knowing the vehicle's movement can also be helpful; knowing which direction a car left by, referencing north, south, east, or west, could mean the difference between catching a potential suspect and letting them get away.

Practice 3 | Describe Activity



When describing an activity, we want to describe exactly what, where, and when it is happening or happened, and if we have a sense of why. Sometimes the why is unknown at the time, but we can certainly recall and relay who is or was involved.

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This video demonstrates how quickly we may be called on to make observations in a short period of time. With proper training, we are better positioned to identify and recall information more accurately. For this example, consider these questions:

- What did you notice first?
- What did you notice last?
- Did you see a weapon? Can you describe it?
- If you had to describe the vehicle, what would you say?
- Can you describe the people involved?
- Which people are important?
- What is the most critical information to give a 911 operator?

Help! I'm Lost

Knowing which direction is north, south, east, or west can be difficult. With the advent of satellite navigators, such as GPS, knowing the compass directions has become an increasingly lost skill. However, this skill is still very much in full practice with the military and law enforcement. If our goal is to communicate quickly and accurately when making a report, it is helpful to learn this skill again. Some suggestions are offered below:

- The sun rises in the east and sets in the west. These can be helpful orienting points.
- When at home or in local places of worship, memorize large buildings or location points that are familiar to you. Knowing that a large skyscraper is south of the synagogue location or that the steps of the chabad are facing east when exiting the building can also help orient.
- Consider placing N, S, E, and W makers around large campus or community locations to help communicate orientation.
- Most smartphones and car GPS devices have compass applications. Use these to better familiarize yourself with locations.

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Who is Driving Around?

Imagine a suspicious activity such as a vehicle driving through our parking lot every Saturday during worship services. It would be helpful to consider the following questions to improve our reporting of an event:

- Is this activity part of a pattern? How long has this been going on?
- What details can you identify about the car?
- What details can you identify about the driver? Do they appear to be armed?
- Is there evidence that the driver is using their vehicle as a weapon?
- Was the vehicle abandoned? Did the occupant(s) leave on foot or in a vehicle, and if so, in what direction?

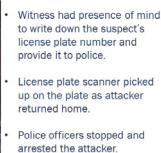
From October 22 to November 1, 2018, Cesar Sayoc mailed sixteen packages with pipe bombs via the US Postal Service to multiple Democratic Party politicians and other critics of Donald Trump. Sayoc had a long criminal record and was living in his van at the time of arrest. He drove the van with its clear threats and messages to those he targeted around Florida (see pictures).



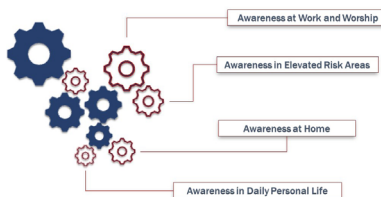
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Hanukkah stabbing suspect in New York

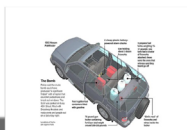


BeAware in every part of your life



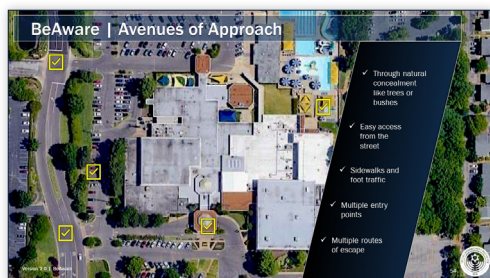
As previously mentioned, SA is a process that is useful in all aspects of our lives. Situational awareness is truly a life skill that we should be practicing every day and everywhere we go.

**The actions of average people save
lives every day!**



Attempted car bombing | May 1, 2010
 El Paso, El Paso, New Mexico City

picked up the phone and called police. It was this awareness and commitment to action that saved lives that day. When they felt uneasy about what they saw, they didn't ignore the feeling. They took personal responsibility to make the report.

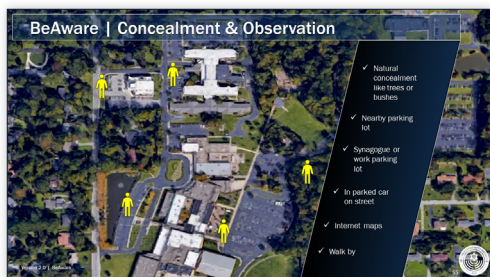


Assessing risk to your local facilities is another aspect of SA. This is often referred to by law enforcement and the military as critical infrastructure assessments. In this example, it is a helpful exercise to look at our schools, synagogues, and chabads the way our potential adversaries would look at them. Consider points of access and how someone might access the facility by foot or with a vehicle.

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In addition to methods of how an attacker might gain entrance to and exit from a facility, we should also pay attention to where someone could engage in surveillance or hide themselves until they are ready to carry out an attack. This larger security process, known as penetration testing or “red teaming,” involves assessing vulnerabilities by brainstorming ways safety measures could be countered or thwarted.

WHAT THEY DID	WHAT WE DO
Repeatedly drove past target location to make firsthand observations, take photos and video.	☒ Be aware of vehicles in the parking lot, and notice vehicles that pass repeatedly.
Used a nearby coffee shop as cover while they conducted surveillance of targets.	☒ Notice places from which people can sit and watch without seeming suspicious.
Called and asked questions directly then placed a bomb to impact the largest number of people.	☒ Be friendly but inquisitive. Organizations that appear aware are targeted less.
Watched targeted facility from the bushes and used the concealment to help the attack.	☒ Glance around as you enter and leave the facility - notice the small things.
Visited the targeted facility prior to a shooting incident, as well as the day violence occurred.	☒ Be friendly and open, but at the same time identify pattern behavior.
Obtained a job at the targeted facility to observe operations from the inside.	☒ Don't assume things are what they seem at face value - do a little checking.

Having a plan to identify and report concerns to the proper authorities is critical. Equally important is having a plan for how to interact with those who engage in suspicious behaviors. Certain members of the community, such as greeters, ushers, emissaries, Jewish Community Center front office staff, and Jewish camp staff, often benefit from additional training.

BeAware: Gas Stations



Occurrences

- Homicide
- Abduction
- Robbery
- Theft
- Assault
- Car theft
- Damage

Why gas stations?

- Undetected surveillance of targets
- Plenty of potential targets
- Targets are in a hurry
- Targets are distracted
- Targets leave doors unlocked
- Targets leave valuables on seat

People are often targeted when they are distracted, during large crowd events such as concerts and sports games, at ATMs, or while getting gas for their vehicle. Generally, gas stations are places where we are focused in one direction at a time. There are often large areas of “dead space” at gas stations that are not secured or actively observed by security. Gas stations are also places where property thefts such as purses from vehicles are much more common than more serious crimes such as homicide, child abduction or assault.

However, understanding the potential risk and the mitigation factors is a helpful way make our routine trips much safer.

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Extent of the Threat | Gas Station Crime



July 9, 2019
Atlanta Police data related to "slider" thefts within the first 6 months of 2019:

- 52 incidents
- \$91,000 in cash, phones, laptops + other valuables
- 106 females (7 miles)

Keep an awareness of "dead space" and areas where you cannot see a potential threat. A good example of this process is when you are walking around a city and take an abrupt turn around a corner. If it is a busy time of day, one can almost anticipate a collision. In this case, money was stolen because the person pumping gas into the white SUV was unaware of the criminal on the other side of their car.

BeAware at the Gas Station



In this slide, we see a list of dangers and some of the ways we can mitigate those dangers while at an elevated risk location such as a gas station. Some techniques include scanning the people around us and taking note of where they are standing and how close they are to us. Another technique involves scanning the vehicles and corresponding license plates. Be sure to reduce distractions and secure your valuables. These active awareness measures will help mitigate potential issues.

BeAware in Rural Areas



Rural areas provide a sense of comfort and safety away from the hustle and bustle of modern life. Although this scenery can often be a relaxing distraction from our daily work, it also presents a unique set of risks that are outlined on the slide. A central concern is the limited connectivity to the outside world and a long emergency service response time. Another challenge is related to the reason we are called to the outdoors, which is our desire to take a break from our daily challenges. This respite can result in reduced situational awareness, particularly when wearing headphones or in low light areas.

BeAware of Cash Apps, Point of Sale, and ATMs



Cash machines can become a prime target for thieves the same way a water source in the wilderness can become a feeding ground for predators. If possible, you should avoid using a cash machine. If you are must make use of a cash machine, the next slide offers some practical advice on how to reduce the risk.

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Here are several good pieces of advice regarding the use of ATMs. Conduct your business quickly maintain focused SA when entering your security code and counting the money withdrawn. Be aware that ATM-related risks become elevated at night and in isolated locations.



Another heightened risk scenario is walking among a large crowd. As with other areas, being focused on preparedness is critical. Creating a series of if-then conditions in your mind before a dangerous scenario presents itself is the key to preparedness in crowds. Consider the chart below.

Condition ("If")	Reaction ("Then")
If I see, hear, or smell something that concerns me...	Identify a location to escape to away from the crowd. Know whether you plan to go back in the direction you came from or walk quickly in another direction without stopping.
If I feel trapped or surrounded...	Always try to remain on the periphery of a crowd. This will allow you to observe more effectively and have a means to escape if a situation escalates.
If I feel someone is hustling or scamming me...	Be aware of strangers asking for help and being pulled outside your comfort zone. Street hustlers and scammers often work in groups where one asks for help to distract you.
If I am bumped by someone...	A good rule of thumb is to keep valuables in a location that has at least two steps of access (e.g., buttoned into a coat pocket and zipped inside). If you are bumped, check your pockets to ensure you haven't been robbed.

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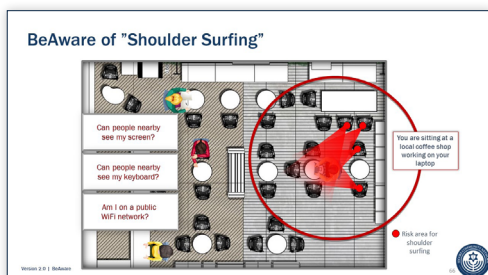
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Be Aware of Hustles

Each city has different street hustles. For example, in New Orleans, a hustler might bet that they can tell you where you got your shoes (the answer is on your feet). Many hustles involve a service that is instigated quickly, such as shining your shoes or spraying water on your windshield at a stoplight. Someone may ask for a light (for a cigarette) or a small, odd, amount of change (like 45 cents). This technique is often used to engage someone in conversation to ask for a larger amount of money. Read about these hustles through Google prior to visiting a new city. A good search approach is entering the name of the city and then the phrase “street hustles.”



The online world offers its own unique risks and dangers. Consider enrolling in a separate course related to online safety and security to better protect yourself. The next series of slides offer advice and cautionary tales regarding digital safety.



Using a public Wi-Fi network is not advised because of the significant risks of unwanted access. People sign on and skip normal safety precautions because their need is pressing, and they think their risk is low. If you are using public Wi-Fi, consider using a virtual private network (VPN) to improve your security. If you are working in public, be aware of shoulder surfing, which occurs when someone observes the contents of your screen and the keystrokes you're making.

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BeAware: An Introduction to Situational Awareness

BeAware of Vulnerabilities with Mobile Devices



TIPS FOR MOBILE DEVICE SECURITY/SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

(Self Protection - "Other Threats to Mobile Phones")

- 1) Maintain physical control of the device
- 2) Have a password and protect it
- 3) Ensure security features are on and working
- 4) Choose and install software carefully: some are dangerous
- 5) Avoid free WiFi hotspots, infrared and Bluetooth when in public
- 6) Do not follow links sent in suspicious email or text messages
- 7) Carefully consider the information you store on the device
- 8) Be careful when using social networking applications
 - o Photos, family/friends, locations, residence, contacts
- 9) Understand phone-to-PC connectivity/vulnerability
- 10) Protect your banking information
 - o Use two-step/password and beware of "shoulder surfers"
 - o Phone security is critical to the security of banking data

Mobile devices such as smartphones, smart watches, and tablets offer their own series of risks and pitfalls. Implementing simple security measures, such as using a vetted vault to store passwords and personal information, can help keep your device secure. Change all your passwords regularly and ensure that any software you install is approved and vetted. Also ensure that you can remotely disable or track your device if it is misplaced or stolen.

Keeping our Homes Safe



Imagine a 360° security awareness perimeter around your house.

Motion detection lights are a reliable, inexpensive deterrent.

Criminals are every race, age, gender. Many look innocent and fit the location.

Criminals approach the front and back of the house.

Keep doors locked. Criminals try doors to check access and test integrity.

Use deadbolts and prop bars, as chains have NO security value.

Video strangers on your property. It may have future value.

For many of us, our homes are havens from the outside world. Sadly, this may not always be the case. Just as with critical infrastructure safety (e.g., synagogues, chabads, Jewish community centers), we must do everything we can to ensure the safety of our homes. This involves addressing everything from our landscaping to lighting. Be aware of any easily accessible windows and the security of doors and entryways. Home security is also about appearance. For overall safety, consider employing early concepts such as penetration

testing or red teaming. From an outsider's perspective, how might someone gain access to your home? What vulnerabilities make it easy (or give the illusion of ease) to gain access?

BeAware in your home

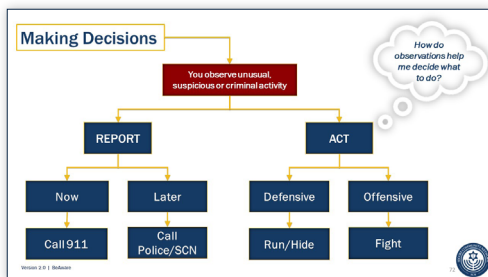


Everyone's home is different, but there are common best practices that should be considered. These include securing windows and doors on the ground level as a first line of defense. Consider lighting dark portions of your property and keeping high bushes and shrubbery cut back from windows. BeAware of easily removed air conditioning units that may provide intruders with easy access to your home.

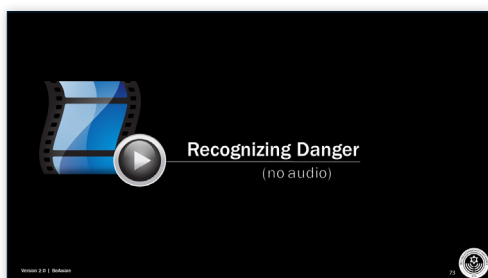
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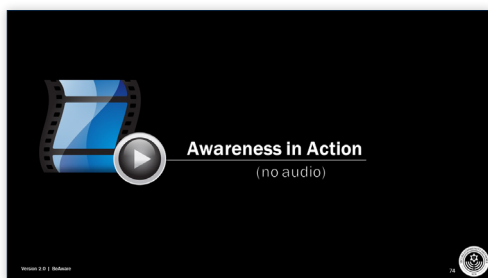
BeAware: An Introduction to Situational Awareness



Each situation unfolds differently and requires us to make informed decisions about when we need to report and when we need to act. Caution should always be taken to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe, and we should file a report once the immediate risk has been mitigated.

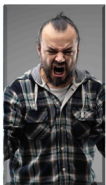


This video offers important lessons about the nature of an attack. Although the man here is not to blame, being distracted by his phone led to a delay in spotting the danger around him. Walking alone at night warrants focused awareness. Although spotting the attacker earlier may not have prevented the attack, it certainly would have given him a better chance at escape.



This video demonstrates a potential kidnapping. The driver prevents this by taking quick and decisive action. When the woman sees the driver of the attack vehicle exit wearing a mask and gloves, she does not hesitate to act. Because she has been trained, she does not panic, run from the situation or even try to pick up her dog. Instead, she quickly climbs into her vehicle, puts the car in reverse, and escapes successfully. If not for her training and acute observation, the two attackers might have been successful.

What to do if approached....



- Are fists clenched? Are they angry and ready to strike?
- Are both hands visible? Are they concealing a weapon?
- What are they saying? Are they telegraphing intentions?
- What are they wearing? Maybe hiding weapons? Seasonal?
- Are they alone? Are there others with them? Hiding?
- What if they seem perfectly pleasant?
Are there other signs to BeAware of?

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What do you do if someone is outside of the synagogue? What if they have a weapon? What if the door is locked, but they approach and want to be let in? The answers largely depend on what you have observed. This course stresses the importance of being aware of what is happening around you. Do they have a weapon? Are both hands visible? What are they saying? Can you smell alcohol? Are they wearing bulky clothes that may conceal something?

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BeAware: An Introduction to Situational Awareness

What to do if approached....



- Prioritize your personal safety.
- If safe, signal others for help.
- Follow training: Run/Hide/Fight.
- Keep them talking; give appearance of helping until help arrives.
- Look for hooks —avoid barbs.

If you are concerned for your safety, always remember your CATT training and the Run, Hide, Fight model of continuous decision making. Is there a way to signal to another person that you need help? Can you keep the suspect talking until someone is available to help? Look for “hooks” that help pull them closer to a positive connection with you. What are they interested in talking about? Avoid “barbs” – triggers that might make them escalate their behavior. Preparedness starts prior to the crisis. Discuss plans for signals, alerts, and how to approach hostile scenarios.

Observing and Reporting Process



The See, Think, Act approach is a tried and tested method to manage risk. When observing a scenario, recall the people, activities, and vehicles that may be involved. Think about the difference between our responses to unusual, suspicious, and criminal activities. Doing this will drive our next actions. Do we gather information through notes and pictures or notify police and/or SCN?

Reporting and Response



The most common uncertainty among the public is knowing when to report unusual or suspicious behavior. This issue has become more pressing as we have seen some “weaponized” reporting of certain populations, such as African Americans.

This is a visual representation of the desired responses with respect to reporting unusual, suspicious, and criminal behavior. Criminal behavior, once recognized, always warrants a 911 call. Suspicious

behavior warrants a call both to 911 and the FBI’s joint terrorism task force. Doing this will enable federal, state, and local partners to connect the activity to similar suspicious activity nationwide and even worldwide. Unusual behavior should be photographed or videoed, if possible, and law enforcement and the SCN Duty Desk should be contacted.

NOTES:



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Connect with SCN



dutydesk@securecommunitynetwork.org



844.SCN.DESK



<https://www.securecommunitynetwork.org>



@Official_SCN



Secure Community Network

To Report an Incident

- Call 911
- Notify the SCN Duty Desk