

Aware, Alert, Ahead, Always: How To Do Your Job Effectively While Things Are Trying To Kill You

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Rom Duckworth is a dedicated emergency responder and award-winning educator with more than twenty-eight years of experience working in career and volunteer fire departments, hospital healthcare systems, and public and private emergency medical services. Rom is currently a career fire Captain and paramedic EMS Coordinator, Founder and Director of the New England Center for Rescue and Emergency Medicine and an emergency services advocate, author, and speaker at conferences around the world.

Failure to recognize unsafe situations. Failure to prevent unsafe actions. Failure to deliver effective operations. These are the results of poor situational awareness in emergency responders. This program uses real-life case studies and in-class exercises to train emergency responders in applying the six steps of situational awareness and action so that in the field they can be aware, alert, and ahead of their situation, always!

Presentation Outline:

1) Introduction

- a. The current state of emergency for EMS Workers
- b. A major contributor to EMS injuries and illness is a lack of situational awareness
- c. A framework of Aware, Alert, Ahead, Always to improve situational awareness

2) Aware

- a. Situational awareness is not a “natural state”
- b. Definition and description of situational awareness

3) Alert

- a. Demonstration of physical limitations of situational awareness
- b. Demonstration of cognitive limitations of situational awareness

4) Ahead

- a. Decision making from situational awareness

5) Always

- a. Policies, procedures, and practices

Objective 1: Describe factors that affect emergency responder situational awareness.

Objective 2: Discuss the impact of crew resource management on situational awareness and effective operations.

Objective 3: Discuss factors that affect emergency responder decision-making and use of decision making systems.