

STREET SMARTS

- Stay alert and tuned into your surroundings, whether it's on the street, in an office building, shopping mall, or driving your vehicle.



- Stick to well-lit, well-traveled areas. Avoid shortcuts through wooded areas, parking lots, or alleys.

- Try to avoid being a creature of habit whenever possible. Avoid patterns of behavior that can be predicted by others so they can't make a plan of when and how to harm you.

- Check out the locations of businesses that are open early and late.

- Send the message that you're calm, confident, and know where you are going.



PARK & TRAIL SAFETY

- Travel with a friend when possible. Let someone know where you are going.
- Carry some form of I.D.
- Scout out trails & parks to become familiar with possible safety spots. Avoid areas where visibility is poor.



- Earbuds limit your personal awareness. Consider leaving one earbud out.
- Have your cell phone on hand. Consider installing a safety app. Stay off your phone unless necessary.
- Be aware of trees & bushes that someone could be waiting behind.
- Consider carrying some form of personal defense, such as pepper spray or a personal safety alarm. Know how to use them properly.

PERSONAL SAFETY AWARENESS TIPS

INFORMATION TO HELP YOU STAY SAFE AS YOU ENJOY ALL OUR COMMUNITY HAS TO OFFER



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WHAT IS SITUATIONAL AWARENESS?

This is a term most often used by the military and law enforcement. Simply put, situational awareness is a frame of mind in which you are relaxed yet aware of your surroundings and also aware of whom or what could be of help to you if a problem were to arise.



Within the scope of the situational awareness idea is the “color code” developed by author and Marine, Lt. Col. Jeff Cooper.

Cooper’s color code system is often used often by law enforcement, but can be adapted for personal application. This system breaks down alertness levels into four colors of escalating degrees of preparation for the use of deadly force: white, yellow, orange, and red. The chart at right paraphrases Cooper’s system.

CONDITION WHITE

Condition White describes a person who is oblivious of their surroundings. The first time a person realizes they are in trouble is when it’s too late—they “never saw it coming.” Petty thieves and predators alike are very good at identifying those in Condition White since they make much easier targets. Being preoccupied, day dreaming, text messaging while walking in public, walking head down and never looking around are all sure signs of Condition White.

CONDITION YELLOW

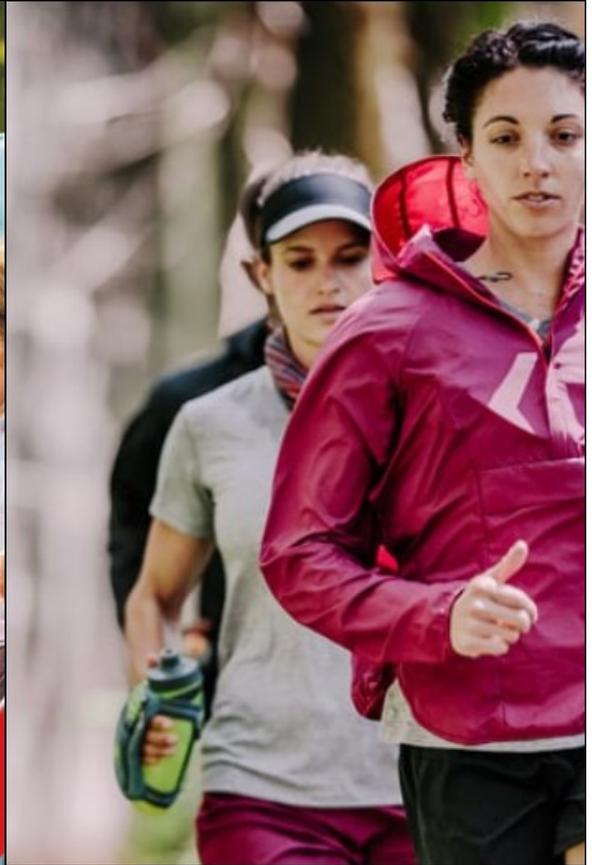
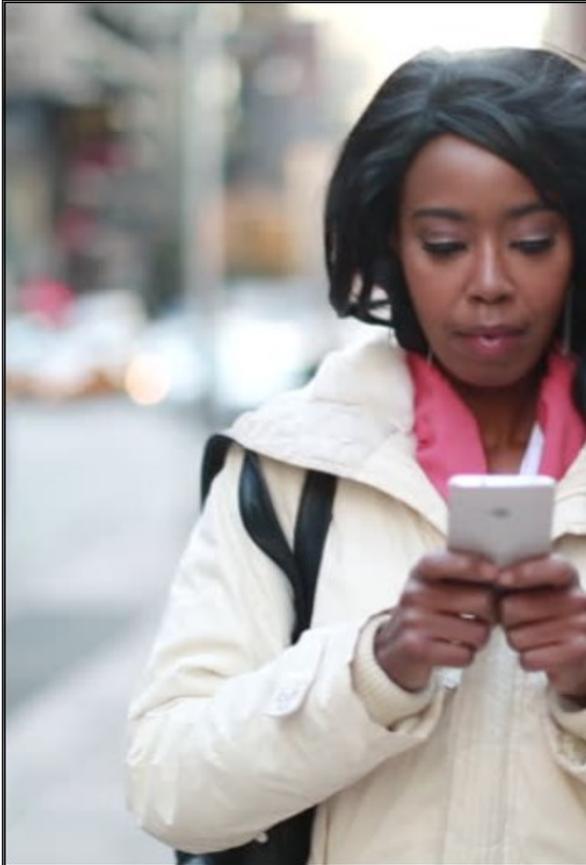
Tom Givens, a weapons expert and trainer, describes Condition Yellow as “a relaxed state of general alertness, with no specific focal point. You are not looking for anything or anyone in particular; you simply have your head up and your eyes open. You are alert and aware of your surroundings. You are difficult to surprise, therefore, you are difficult to harm. You do not expect to be attacked today. You simply recognize the possibility.”

CONDITION ORANGE

This is a person in a heightened state of awareness and very focused on a potential threat or a situation that could be come more serious. You are not in “fight or flight” mode yet, but you are ready to shift gears if need be. You may feel mild to moderate adrenaline rush and elevated heart rate and blood pressure. You will remain in Condition Orange until you are satisfied that the potential for immediate threat no longer exists.

CONDITION RED

If the focus of your attention in Condition Orange does something you find threatening, you will elevate to Condition Red. Here you are in “fight or flight” mode and you are ready to do either. The potential threat is now very real and needs to be dealt with. Once you’ve shifted to condition red, you cannot be surprised by your primary adversary. You are fully prepared to take decisive and immediate action.



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