



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Situational Awareness Safety Message

Everyone has a slightly different approach to staying aware, with unique ways of collecting and processing information. But in the workplace, you need your entire team to operate on the same wavelength. A company's situational intelligence depends on the ability to understand, detect, and mitigate risks in a consistent fashion.

Unsurprisingly, the military has developed and refined common frameworks for honing quick decision-making to the point of being second nature:

The OODA loop

Developed by a U.S. Air Force strategist for fighter pilots, the OODA loop is a process to assess confusing or rapidly evolving situations.

1. Observe the situation
2. Orient yourself to the reality of your surroundings, eliminating your assumptions and biases
3. Decide what you're going to do
4. Act confidently with your ongoing awareness

The SLAM technique

Much like the OODA loop, the SLAM technique consists of four steps.

1. Stop and think before proceeding
2. Look around your work environment for safety hazards
3. Analyze the risks present and whether you're prepared for them
4. Manage the situation, and if necessary, halt work until you can mitigate the risks

Neither framework is inherently better than the other, evaluate which model is a better fit for you and the organization's needs.