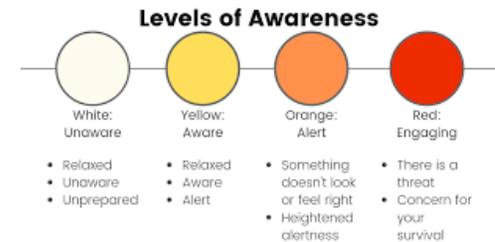




## Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



### Understanding Conditions of Awareness Safety Message

Can you remember a time where you were immersed in your work and you became unaware of everything going on around you? It's important to be engaged in our work, however we need to keep our head on a swivel, periodically checking our surroundings and rely on spotters to pass along information about changing conditions.

Situational awareness is the knowledge we acquire about the risks associated with the environment we are operating in.

#### Conditions of Awareness

At any given moment, whether at work or at play, our mental condition of awareness can be identified by one of four colors: white, yellow, orange or red.

##### 1. Condition White

This is our lowest level of awareness. When we operate in Condition White, we are unaware of what is going on around us. Some reasons why we fall into Condition White at work include stress, fatigue, cellphone use and thinking about family issues.

##### 2. Condition Yellow

Condition Yellow is our most effective level of awareness. When we operate in this condition, our eyes, ears and instincts are working together. We are focused on the task at hand, but we are also scanning our environment for changing conditions and possible hazards. In an unfamiliar and crowded setting, if you move your wallet to your front pocket, you're in the Yellow. When many of us were taught how to drive, our instructors told us, "Ten and two, and keep your eyes moving from side to side." They were instructing us to stay in the Yellow.

##### 3. Condition Orange

We have a heightened level of awareness when we operate in Condition Orange. Typically, we move into Orange because we need to concentrate on a specific task. There are few jobs that would get done properly without workers moving into Condition Orange. If we recognize when we must move into Orange, we can make a plan to ensure someone on our crew remains in Condition Yellow to watch our back.

##### 4. Condition Red

In Condition Red, we are reacting or responding to an emergency or other abnormal situation. The original plan has changed, and there is minimal time to think about what is happening and respond to it. After we move into Red and the situation is neutralized, we need to call an all-stop, regroup and get everyone back into Condition Yellow.