



People–Situational Awareness

December 11, 2017

Pillars of Success

PEOPLE
SERVICE
QUALITY
FINANCE
GROWTH

What is Situational Awareness (SA) and why do we need to know about it?

The Situational Awareness for Everyone (SAFE) Committee wants to remind everyone about Situational Awareness and to always stay “in the yellow.” The committee also reminds employees to review the hospitals Code Silver plan and how it relates to your area.



The SAFE Committee was formed to address the reality of our changing world and what we need to do to be prepared to protect ourselves and our patients and families. To do this, SAFE rolls out training materials in the form of videos and guides to increase awareness of what is going on around us as we work and play.

To quote Mr. Steve McKernan, Emeritus CEO of UNM Hospitals, *“Situational Awareness in our organization is especially important. What it really means is as you walk around, you look. You keep your head up and you are aware of what is going on. If there are people around who probably shouldn’t be here or if there are packages lying around that are in odd places, the good thing to do is to notify security.”*

We have a responsibility to our patients and their families to make sure UNMH is a safe environment. We are especially challenged because we have so many doors around the university campus. We are a public hospital and we try and make ourselves as accessible as possible to any and all members of our community. At the same time this means that those who may want to do harm could target this organization. The best way to prevent this from happening is our own staff.



Pillars of Success

PEOPLE
SERVICE
QUALITY
FINANCE
GROWTH

The Cooper Color Code of Awareness

Zone	Description	What to do
White	Unaware, not paying attention to surrounding.	Become aware of surrounding. Move in to the Yellow.
Yellow	Awareness. Relaxed alertness. No specific threat, however you are aware and you are prepared to do something if necessary.	Stay alert and aware of your surroundings.
Orange	Specific alert. Focus is directed, there is a potential threat.	Assess the situation. Formulate your safety plan. Make others aware, deescalate using non-physical methods, remove self and others from the environment and alert security.
Red	Take appropriate Action. Threatening behaviors or actions imminent. There is a definitive threat. The potential threat is very real and needs to be dealt with.	Enact your safety plan. You are in "fight or flight" mode and ready to do either. Shelter in place, use self-defense techniques and contact security
Black	Actively sheltering in place, fighting or fleeing.	

This chart is the key training method we are using. This training was developed by Jeff Cooper, who trained the FBI, the CIA, and others who have the responsibility of protecting high profile figures.

Mr. Cooper developed a color code of awareness that is used to symbolize or describe mental awareness in relation to the environment or to an event. The chart uses the colors white, yellow, orange, red, and black to represent degrees of awareness, anticipation, concentration, and focus that comprise a state of mind.



People–Situational Awareness

December 13, 2017



Pillars of Success

PEOPLE
SERVICE
QUALITY
FINANCE
GROWTH

What the colors mean

WHITE: This is when you are totally unaware of your surroundings, not paying attention and you believe you are in a totally safe environment. People who are in this state are not at all aware of danger until it has already impacted them.

YELLOW This is the preferred state that everyone should be in. You are aware, relaxed and alert. There is no specific threat, but you are aware and you are prepared to do something if necessary.

ORANGE Something has caught your attention; your focus is directed at something specific and your “gut” tells you something isn’t right. You begin to formulate a potential plan of action if the situation escalates.

RED Threatening behaviors or actions are imminent. You must take appropriate action as there is a definitive threat. The potential threat is very real and needs to be dealt with. Enact your plan.

BLACK You are in the situation. You are fleeing, fighting, or sheltering in place. Practicing situational awareness is key to helping prevent getting to this level.



People–Situational Awareness

December 14, 2017

Pillars of Success

PEOPLE
SERVICE
QUALITY
FINANCE
GROWTH

Code Silver

Code Silver is implemented as part of the UNMH security response to an active shooter on premises. Depending on your proximity, this would be considered a RED or BLACK situation. If the situation is near you (BLACK) and you cannot get away safely, you would Shelter in Place.

What does “Shelter in Place” mean? Shelter in Place means to take immediate shelter where you are. Remember, if we are dealing with an armed subject, our goal is to minimize our exposure to the offender.

- **If you are in an office, stay and secure the door.**
- **If you are in a hallway, get into a room and secure the door.**
- **If safe to do so, usher all patients and visitors to safety.**
- **Remain there until you have been notified by security or police.**
- **Silence your cell phone and remain as quiet as possible.**

Your safe place should be out of the offender’s view. Try not to trap yourself in an area and restrict your options for movement. Lock all doors and if necessary blockade the doors with heavy furniture.

How will I know when I need to Shelter in Place? If you are in the immediate area, your first goal should be to try to exit the area of danger. If you cannot safely do so, you will need to find an area quickly to shelter in place. If you are not in the immediate area you may receive communication to activate the UNMH **Code Silver** plan. This will be the signal indicating that all personnel should shelter-in-place. Any further communications such as “ALL CLEAR” may be communicated the same way. You may receive this message via:

- **Lynx Emergency Messenger on your PC**
- **Overhead Announcement**
- **E-Mail**
- **Text Message**
- **Co-worker**
- **Security**



People–Situational Awareness

December 15, 2017

Pillars of Success

PEOPLE
SERVICE
QUALITY
FINANCE
GROWTH

Parking Lot Safety Video

The SAFE committee is pleased to announce the release of “Parking Lot Safety.” This video explores security’s role in parking lot safety, when to call security, what to look for and our own role in keeping safe.

Remember, when walking to and from your vehicle:

- Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings; walk with a buddy if possible.
- Please report any suspicious activity to UNMH Security at 272-2160; for emergencies dial 9-1-1.
- Call 333 for any emergency. From your cellphone, dial 272-3333 or 925-3333.
- After hours security escorts are available by calling UNMH Security at 272-2160.

You can watch the *Parking Lot Safety* video and check out other resources and videos created by the SAFE team at <https://hospitals.health.unm.edu/intranet/security/safety.shtml>

or go to the security website and click on the Situational Awareness for Everyone (SAFE) link.