
ICJE News for You

1 message

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November 2021

**Your Monthly News & Updates**[Visit the ICJE Website](#)**"Situational Awareness"**

"Look around, stay alert, know what is going on around you" is a common recommendation to enhance personal safety.

I applied that to the world in which we live. It's not safe.

St. Augustine is quoted as saying:

"When regard for the truth has been broken down or even slightly weakened, all things remain doubtful."

Is it any wonder we are seeing a nation torn apart by an overall disregard for the values which made our nation a beacon of hope for all those seeking freedom, liberty and a government of the people, for the people, and by the people.

Many of those that we look to for leadership lack the honor and integrity required to instill trust. Without integrity, everything falls apart. Politicians fabricate stories, lie about anything, under the rationalization that "winning at any cost" is what is important. "We can do what we want once we are elected" is the only value that guides many.

Doctors who once treated health conditions have been relegated to the sideline, by government officials who claim they don't lie, only to change the definitions to avoid accountability. Our children observe this behavior, and wonder why they have to tell the truth when the "leaders" are not held to the same standard.

School boards demonstrate a disdain for parents becoming involved in the administration of the school curriculum, and decisions. Hot mics regularly catch teachers and education

leaders cursing parents under their breath for parents whose opinions are not in alignment with theirs.

As the Bible says in Matthew 12: 34 ..."**For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.**" It doesn't take phenomenal situational awareness to understand where their hearts are.

Loudon County, Virginia has been a hot spot for controversy. School leaders covered up a rape in order to stifle any objections to changes to a proposed school guideline expanding transgender provisions in schools. Regardless of your opinion on the issue, covering up material information is the ultimate erosion of trust and integrity.

Freedom requires the freedom to make choices. When government eliminates choice, such as a free market in the fuel you choose to use, the trucks and SUV's you drive, and the medical treatment you choose, liberty fails.

'Emergencies' have always been the pretext on which the safeguards of individual liberty have been eroded. – Austrian Economist F. August von Hayek

Stay alert,

Jim Rechel
ICJE Newsletter Editor

Staying Safe...Triple-A Plan (*Not Associated with AAA*)

Staying Safe in an Unsafe World

Overview: The Triple-A Plan

Most Americans understand that violent crime has drastically increased over the last decade, and the increase does not seem to be slowing down this year. What is not as well known is the increase in attacks against churches and other worship centers. For the past few years, ICJE has been offering free seminars to law enforcement and worship center personnel about protecting their organizations from targeted criminal activity.

At the worship center seminars, we were often asked about protecting individuals rather than institutions, so we developed an introductory workshop to exchange ideas about how people can better protect themselves, their families, and their property using common sense ideas and practices.

Because the reach of a workshop is necessarily limited, we hope to provide a series of articles to our *ICJE News* subscribers, distilling the major ideas to a few pages and presenting them each month in the newsletter.

Of course, there are no guarantees in life, and what we advocate may not be appropriate in your situation, so all of these suggestions have to be tailored to your particular circumstances.

The basis for our suggestions revolves around what we call the **Triple-A Plan**:

Awareness, Avoidance, and Action.

Awareness (Situational)

Awareness is the foundation upon which avoidance and action are built. Situational awareness is simply understanding what is happening around you as it relates to you. An illustration of this assumption is found in a corollary to the Pareto principle or 80/20 rule, which holds that at any given time, 10% of the people make things happen, 10% of the people understand what is happening, and 80% of the people stand around and say, "what's happening?"

While this is given somewhat tongue-in-cheek, it does illustrate the fact that most of us are not really aware of the people or things that may adversely affect our safety at any given time. Like most behavioral traits, situational awareness can be learned and applied to provide a higher measure of protection to anyone making an effort to apply it.

One of the best books about situational awareness and a book that has been around for some time is *The Gift of Fear* by Gavin De Becker. This book is inexpensive, widely available, and well worth reading to give you a sense of what situational awareness is and how it can be applied in your life.

The author stresses that because your safety is ultimately your responsibility, you can't rely on the police, a security agency, or others for your physical protection. His main point is that the solution to personal violence is intuition, that intuition can be learned and sharpened, and that those who follow their intuition are much less likely to become victims.

Law enforcement officers frequently refer to this condition as noticing that something Just Doesn't Look Right (JDLR). You may not be able to articulate what it is, but by training yourself to be more aware of your surroundings, you will instinctively know that something is out of place or that the situation simply feels wrong.

Examples are an individual expressing noticeable anger, staring at you, following you, wearing inappropriate clothing, making unexpected noises, or other actions that seem out of place. Of course, to sense these actions, you have to be looking for them. That is the essence of situational awareness.

A great illustration of this is found in the short video accessed through our Screencast link: <https://www.screencast.com/t/MTuNZRel2Rc>

As you view this video, notice that the customers wearing masks remain standing in line as one unmasked customer becomes increasingly distraught. Not one walked out of the store or intervened. For civilians, the most appropriate response to this or any potentially dangerous confrontation would be to leave and call 911 immediately.

The failure to quickly leave the area by the other customers shows a demonstrated lack of situational awareness that could have resulted in injury or death.

Summary: Read *The Gift of Fear* and begin to apply your intuition to the world around you. Using all of your senses, train yourself to look for JDLR events and circumstances. When appropriate, act on your instinct to protect yourself and others.

Next month:

We will expand the concept of situational awareness and examine the second component of the Triple-A Plan: **Avoidance and Counter-Surveillance.**

For comments or suggestions, please get in touch with us at training@icje.org.

Thanks, and stay vigilant. - Bob Thetford ICJE, Inc.

Tracking Cell Phones Takes on New Methods

There is a thought provoking Twitter Thread on how cell phone metadata appears to be used to identify and track people who didn't want to be identified and tracked by

the FBI.

Link: [Twitter Thread Describing How Cell Tower Data Used to Track in New Ways](#)

The Devil Sheds No Tears

In February of this year, Brittany Gosney and her live-in boyfriend, James Hamilton reported Gosney's six year old son missing. Throughout a 90 minute interview, Brittany Gosney calmly created a fabricated story, until being confronted with information that contradicted her story. Without any emotion she coldly explained how her boyfriend beat her children, and that she killed her son because Hamilton was tired of the kids.

Gosney pled guilty to murder this week.

The interview links are provided below. It is approximately 90 minutes but could be a good training resource for those of you needing recent examples.

Links: [Brittany Gosney | Mother Confesses to Killing 6-Year Old | Police Interrogation - Bing video](#)

[Mother details how she and boyfriend disposed of son's body in newly released interrogation tapes - Bing video](#)

ICJE Training Opportunities

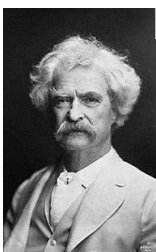
ICJE Training Schedule

While the 2021 Fall calendar was full of dates, we still cannot publish our end of year training schedule as we are still awaiting word from ADECA and AUM regarding the necessary grant approvals in order for ICJE to post training classes moving forward. We have plenty in the stable, and will post them as soon as we get the go ahead!

We'll keep you posted!

November 9, 2021 - Today in Law Enforcement - Montgomery, Alabama

For more information and registration links go to: [ICJE - Institute for Criminal Justice Education, Inc.](#)



Thought of the Month

“The two most important days of your life are the day you are born, and the day you find out why.” -

Mark Twain

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