



Spartan Firearms Training Group, LLC

Tip of the Day—July 16, 2025

● Master Informed Situational Awareness ●

(Note: Basic situational awareness is insufficient. There is simply too much information and not enough time to process what your senses are trying to perceive and understand. Instead, you need to practice informed situational awareness. A valuable resource for learning more about that process is found in “Left of Bang: How the Marine Corps' Combat Hunter Program Can Save Your Life” by Van Horn & Riley. We teach informed situational awareness in our wear-and-carry course.)

When you carry, awareness is your first line of defense. Here's how to sharpen it:

✓ Stay Alert & Observant

Keep your head up. Scan your surroundings—don't walk through the world on autopilot with a cell phone in your hand and earbuds plugged in (see **Tip of the Day—July 14, 2025—Break the Predator Attack Cycle** at [Tip of the Day-July 14, 2025-Break the Predator Attack Cycle - Spartan Firearms Training Group](#)).

✓ Establish a Baseline

Know what “normal” looks like in your environment so you can spot what doesn't belong. What's normal is your baseline. It is THE most important element of informed situational awareness. If you don't know what's normal, you won't be able to identify what stands out as a potential threat (that is, the anomalies). Ask “When I arrive at work, what's normal?”, when I arrive at home, “What's normal?”, when at church. “What's normal?” Then, pay attention to anything that goes against the “normal” and be prepared to act.

✅ Recognize Anomalies

Anomalies are the most important indicators of danger.

The *baseline* is what's normal for an environment — the people, behavior, sounds, energy, pace, and so on. Once you understand the baseline, the **anomaly** is anything that deviates from it.

Why are anomalies so important?

Criminals, attackers, or bad actors always display pre-event indicators that stand out *if* you're paying attention. These indicators aren't necessarily obvious threats. They're subtle clues. Examples include:

- ➡ Avoiding eye contact but watching everyone.
- ➡ Staring intently
- ➡ Acting very aggressively
- ➡ Loitering where no one else is standing.
- ➡ Posturing, for example, squaring up or adjusting clothes to access a weapon.
- ➡ Sweating or breathing heavily in a calm environment.
- ➡ Wearing odd or misplaced clothing (long coat in summer, handgun printing through clothing, etc.).

Bottom Line: If you can detect the anomaly, you can predict the threat. If you can predict the threat, you can act before the violent event occurs.

✅ Trust Your Gut

If it feels off, it probably is. Don't ignore that internal alarm (see **Tip of the Day–July 14, 2025–Break the Predator Attack Cycle @ [Tip of the Day-July 14, 2025-Break the Predator Attack Cycle - Spartan Firearms Training Group](#)**).

✅ Use Your Training

All the drills and reps only matter if you *see* the threat coming. Your eyes lead your gun.

🚨 **Remember:** Knowing what's normal is the key to spotting what's not. Stay switched on—your life may depend on it.

Is informed situational awareness always correct? Of course not! However, if you master the process, you will be better equipped to predict a threat before it becomes too late to avoid being caught up in the violence.

#InformedSituationalAwareness #ConcealedCarryTips #EverydayCarry #SelfDefense
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