

SCAN – a mind tool for active situational awareness

Sense

Use your physical senses, common sense, and gut feel to take stock of the situation; the act of sense-making using knowledge and experience.

- self-checking
- situational awareness
- questioning attitude

Consider

Consider hazards, threats, and risks—along with your own readiness to act given the conditions and environment—and the wisdom of acting or not acting.

- hazard identification
- risk perception
- detecting error traps
- conservative decision-making

Anticipate

Think of the results that should be expected, the signs that things might be going sideways, and the worst thing that could happen.

- hazard/risk assessment
- anticipating likely errors
- foreseeing potential consequences

Neutralize

Protect against an event by eliminating a threat/hazard, using barriers or controls to reduce risk, or in the worst cases, deciding to back out.

- setting backout conditions
- evaluating defenses
- eliminating or controlling a hazard
- protecting a target
- minimizing harm

SCAN for hazards continuously: before & after performing an action, when making a decision, upon discovery of a potential problem, etc.

