

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS:  
PRO-ACTIVE RESPONSES TO ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY

**DON'T BE  
A VICTIM**

**CRIME  
PREVENTION**



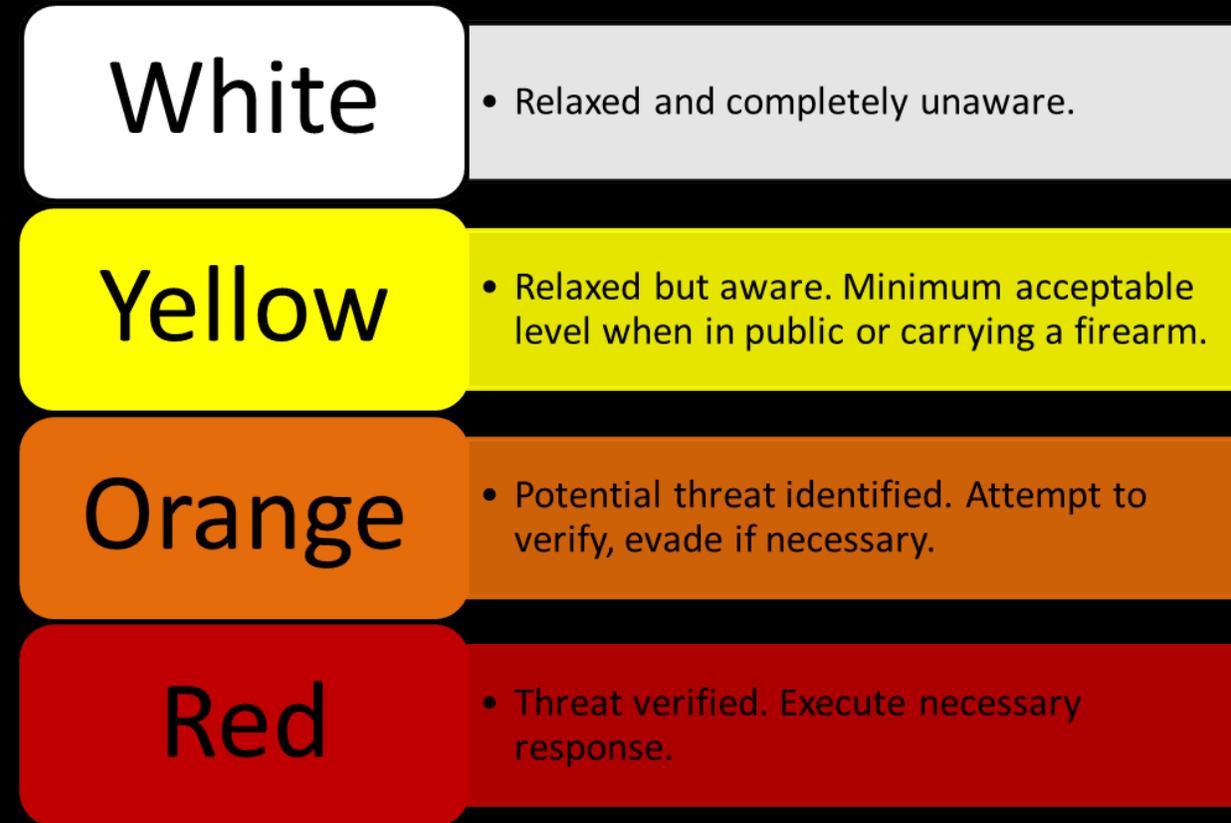
# What is situational awareness?

*“Situational awareness is the perception of environmental elements and events with respect to time or space, the comprehension of their meaning, and the projection of their future status.”*

*Or...*

**PAYING ATTENTION TO YOUR SURROUNDINGS**

## LEVELS OF AWARENESS



# Economic Uncertainty:

- *In light of COVID19, communities are experiencing heavy unemployment and shortages of resources.*
- *First Responder agencies across the country are implementing new procedures of response until this crisis is over to avoid over exposing first responders.*
  - *Changes in response include the limiting of investigative resources to:*
    - *Property Crimes*
    - *Motor Vehicle Theft (MVT)*
    - *1<sup>st</sup> Degree Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)*
    - *Home Burglary*
- *Combined with recent “defelonization” of narcotics possession, our environment is ripe for increased criminal activity.*

# How can we be proactive in this current climate?

• In public...

1. Avoid parking in dark isolated areas. Rethink the time of day when you shop.
2. Stay off your cell phone when walking back and forth to your vehicle.
3. Know where your exits are.
4. Pay attention to other people's behavior who are in your immediate surrounding. It never hurts to look over your shoulder every now and then.

Fixing **Dark** Parking Lot



**NO TEXTING  
WHILE WALKING**



# How can we be proactive in this current climate?

## • At home...

1. Make sure garage, front and back doors remain closed and locked.
2. Park your vehicles inside your garage, if at all possible.
3. Remove all valuable items from your vehicles (regardless of where they are parked).
4. Make sure your vehicle is locked. ***Note: When no visible valuables can be seen in a vehicle, criminals target unlocked vehicles to minimize noise.***



# At home continued...

1. A well lit home is a deterrent for burglars.
  - a. Keep a front and back porch light on through the night. (replace light bulbs with bright LEDs)
  - b. Keep a lamp on in one living space of the home at night.
  - c. Encourage neighbors to do the same, a well lit street is a deterrent.
  - d. Install motion lights on the side of your home.
2. If possible, install a RING Doorbell. This is a very cost effective way to be notified when people are coming onto your property. Also utilizes a “Neighborhood Network” by which you can be alerted to criminal activity in your area.
3. Utilize pad locks to secure gates to the backyard and to sheds.



# Other resources...

- El Paso County Sheriff's Office Resources:
  - <https://www.epcsheriffsoffice.com/epso-covid-19-information>
- Crime Tracking Resource:
  - <https://www.neighborhoodscout.com/co/colorado-springs/crime>
  - This website will allow you to track crime in your city, zip code, neighborhood, etc...
  - This is a great resource to stay up to date on the trends in your specific area.
  - LexisNexis Community Crime Map  
<https://communitycrimemap.com/>
- **If you have any other questions, please contact the EPSO Crime Prevention Coordinator at 520-7151.**