

2022 FIREFIGHTER SAFETY STAND DOWN



June 20, 2022



EMS NFPA 450 Guide for Emergency Medical Services and Systems

“Scene Safe, BSI.” These words have been uttered by every first responder who has ever received medical training. In fact, any responder who has performed a practical exercise for certification knows the first two mandatory skills to be completed on the evaluation checklist are: (1) Ensure the scene is safe before entering; and (2) Don protective gear (BSI – Body Substance Isolation). The assessment of scene safety starts prior to arrival. Verbal clues and cues from dispatch can tip a responder off to a potentially dangerous scene. This may be a best-case scenario because the responder will be on heightened awareness.

Situational awareness in EMS is defined by six steps:

1. **Perceive** the scene for critical clues.
2. **Process** the information gathered to develop an initial mental model of the scene.
3. **Predict** what’s going to happen if the responders don’t intervene.
4. **Decide** how to most effectively respond.
5. **Act** based on the known information.
6. **Communicate and coordinate** with other members of the response team.

DO YOU HAVE PAR?

One of the primary purposes of a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) is to ensure the incident commander and safety officer know where crews are and that all members are accounted for.



- [Episode 323 – EMS crew near-miss from exposure to Methyl Bromide, Part 1](#)
- [Episode 324 – EMS crew near-miss from exposure to Methyl Bromide, Part 2](#)
- [Episode 308 – Responders Overcome by Carbon Monoxide, Part 1](#)
- [Episode 309 – Responders Overcome by Carbon Monoxide, Part 2](#)
- [Episode 238 – Complacency almost killed us on an EMS call](#)
- [Episode 252 – A conversation with thought-leader Dr. Burton Clark](#)