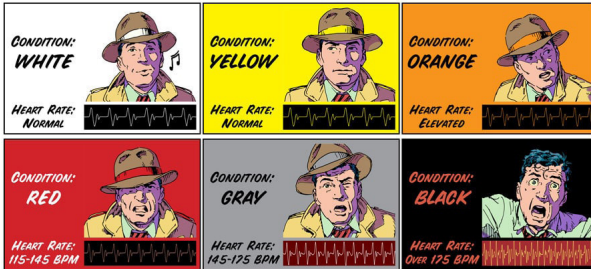




MINDSET The OODA Loop

Observe | Orient | Decide | Act



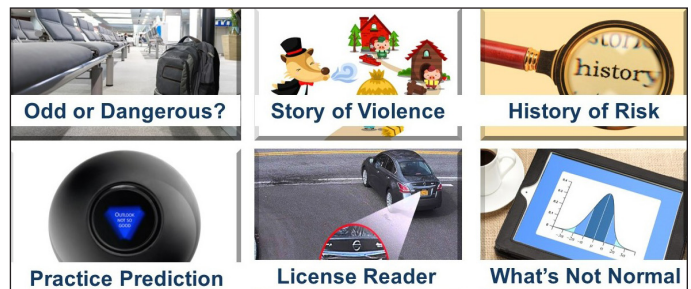
Observe at Condition Yellow

For situational awareness, be at “relaxed alert.” Use all your senses to take in your surroundings. If you are nervous or stressed, you are more likely to have a narrow focus and miss something. Or you may draw attention to yourself. Practice your observation skills and memorizing information like license plate.

Orient: Baseline, Goals, and Action Plans

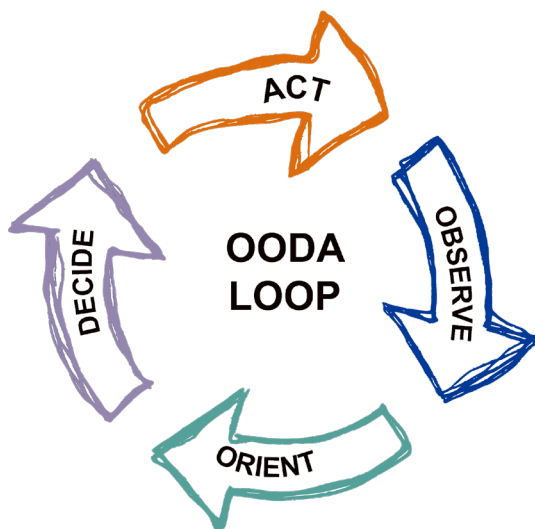
While observing the area, what should you look for? First, establish a baseline for what would be normal in a given situation, then watch for anything that deviates from that baseline. Watch for people who are acting overly dominant, either more or less comfortable than others, or more or less interested in the surroundings.

Use what you have observed to make a plan of action. Seconds matter, so having a plan before the threat manifests. Consider your position in the room relative to where the threat might come from. Have an exit strategy and look for items that might be useful barricades or weapons.



Decide on Your Course of Action

Here, using what you have observed and the plans you develop, decide on the best course of action. In an active threat, consider the principles of run, hide, fight as covered on the next page. This decision must be made quickly, so the more you practice SA, the better equipped you will be.



Act Quickly and Decisively

Whatever action you decide is best, take it quickly and with determination. It can be as simple as crossing the street to avoid passing a dark alley or as crucial as running from an active shooting situation. You may only have seconds to save you life or avoid other harm.