

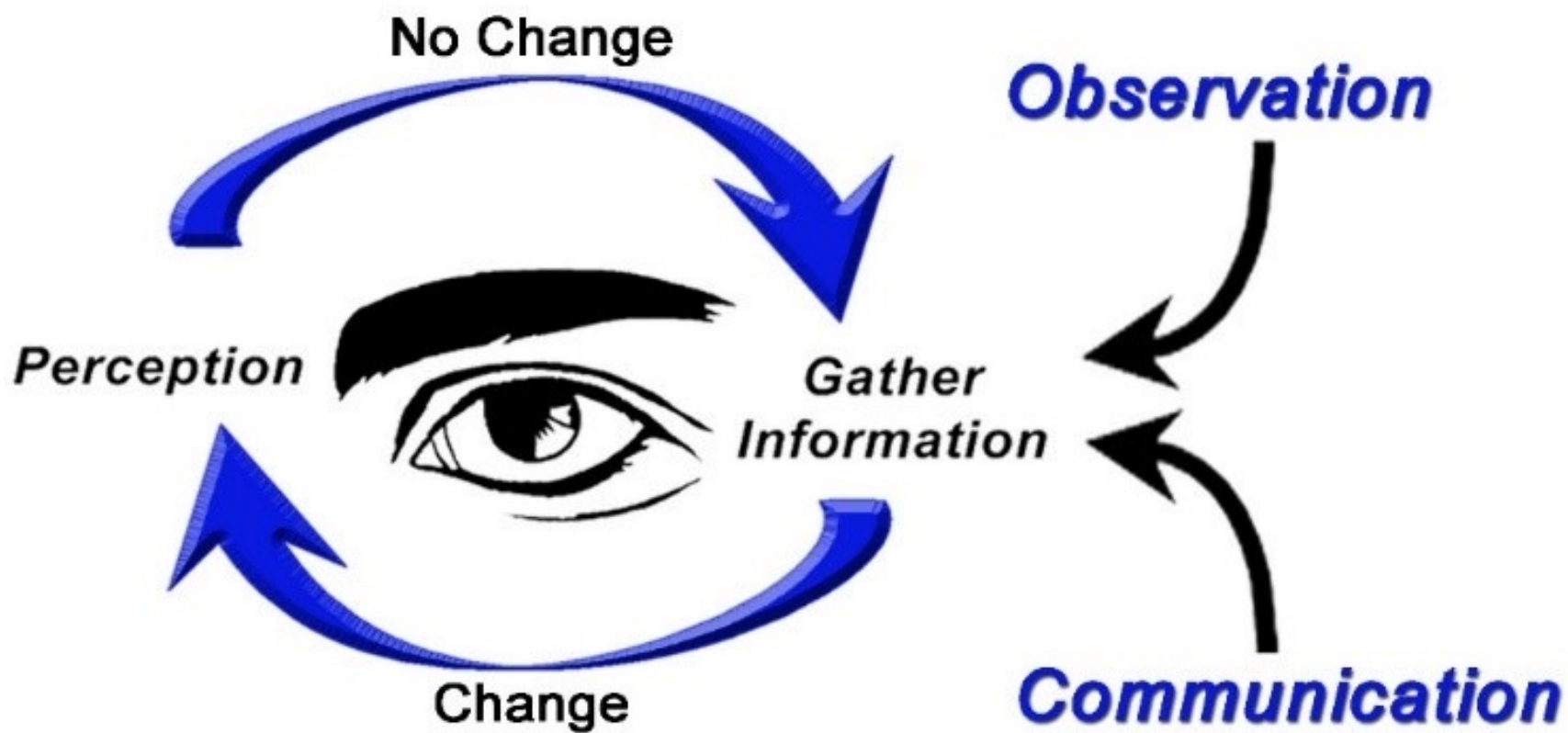
Situational awareness

Essential as a wildland firefighter



What is situational awareness?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubNF9QNEQLA>



Considerations important to situational awareness

- What are the current conditions of the wildfire that impact wildfire behavior?
- What are natural and human-made hazards that could change wildfire behavior?
- Do I have a good escape route if the situation becomes unsafe?
- What are my fellow firefighters doing?
- What resources are on hand at this site?
- Am I able to communicate with my crew and crew boss?
- What is the plan if I am no longer able to communicate with my crew and crew boss?

Barriers to situational awareness

1. **Tunneled senses:** Narrowing attention to one geographic area of an incident scene.
2. **Task fixation:** Narrowing attention to one task being performed at an incident scene.
3. **Command location:** The person in charge being hands-on or physically too close to the action to see the big picture.
4. **Inexperience:** Personnel lacking the training or experience to understand clues to an impending flashover or unforeseen **circumstance?**

Barriers to situational awareness

5. **Complacency:** Lowering of vigilance on the assumption the situation is routine and predictable.
6. **Bravado:** Blatantly ignoring the signs of danger and commencing with high-risk activities in spite of the presence of information indicating the situation has escalated beyond control.
7. **Unrealistic expectations:** Believing personnel are able to accomplish tasks faster and more efficiently than is realistic. Failing to give consideration to quantity and quality of the crews involved in the emergency. Not all crews are created equal!

What can we spot in this photo?
(Use situational awareness)



















Even intentional burns require situational awareness



