

Security Briefs – Situational Awareness Series with Resources

Part 5 – Situational Awareness for Families

Introduction

Situational awareness isn't just for families or security teams—it's a family affair. In this episode, we'll talk about how to help your spouse and kids develop awareness without living in fear. But we also want to speak directly to those who are serving solo.

Teaching Awareness to Children

Your kids don't need a security briefing—but they can develop excellent instincts through natural conversations and low-pressure training.

Try this: when you're out as a family, ask them questions like:

- “What color was the car parked outside our building?”
- “Did anyone walk behind us as we left the store?”

This helps them notice without scaring them.

One family we know turned observation into a game. They'd say things like, “Who can spot three red shirts before we get home?” It built habits of attention in a fun, pressure-free way.

And teach “what-if” scenarios calmly. For example:

- “If we get separated at the market, where will we meet?”
- “If a stranger offers you something, what do you say?”

No drama. Just repetition.

Equipping Spouses and Teens

Spouses and teens also need to know basic safety rhythms:

- Where are the exits?
- Who are your safe contacts?
- What's our safe word or family signal?

One couple created a weekly “security moment” at family dinner—just five minutes to talk about something simple: a route review, a calendar check, or a plan update.

The key is consistency over fear. We aren't raising anxious kids—we're raising alert ones.

Serving Solo

Now, let's talk about those serving solo. Whether you're young or not so young, single or widowed, the principles still apply—and often matter even more.

If you're living alone, make sure you've established intentional check-ins with teammates or trusted locals. Having a rhythm of quick daily messages can give you — and them — peace of mind.

Create a network of neighbors who will notice if something seems off. Introduce yourself to the shopkeeper on the corner or the family next door. These small connections help ensure someone's watching out for you.

And rehearse your plans. Know how you'll respond in a medical emergency or if a stranger shows up at your gate. Practicing alone is just as important as practicing with a group.

One solo worker had a standing Sunday check-in with her Field Leader. When she didn't respond one week, the leader reached out and discovered she'd had a minor fall. Help arrived quickly — because the plan was already in place.

Whether you serve in a family or serve solo, you don't have to walk unaware.

Now you know. In our final episode, we'll close this series with a word about faith, peace, and how situational awareness fits into a life of trust.

As always, check out our downloadable transcript for helpful resources.

Resources:

- Kidpower Safety Resources: <https://www.kidpower.org/>
- Family Emergency Plan – Ready.gov: <https://www.ready.gov/plan>
- Facing Fear Book Summary by Missio Nexus. You have a subscription to Missio Nexus if you serve with the Assemblies of God or any other sponsoring organization. Check with your leadership about how to activate it: <https://missionexus.org/facing-fear-hampton/>