



## Flawed Situational Awareness: The Stealth Killer of First Responders

Jointly sponsored by IFE and Region 3 HQ, this program shares the powerful findings of Dr. Rich Gasaway's extensive research on issues related to first responder decision-making and flawed situational awareness. In his review of hundreds of near-miss reports, case studies, line-of-duty death reports and videos, he continually found himself being frustrated because there were so many clues, indicators and signs that the incident was going to end in disaster. Yet, for some reason, personnel operating at the incident scene could not see it coming. Or if they did see it coming, they did nothing to alter their course.

In his research to understand why first responders were (seemingly) blind and deaf to what was happening right in front of them, Dr. Gasaway uncovered and investigated over one hundred barriers that can destroy situational awareness and flaw decision making. This program focuses on some of the most pervasive situational awareness barriers first responders will face while operating in stress-filled, dynamically-changing environments.

Barriers to be explored and discussed will include:

- o Culture
- o Command location
- o Complacency
- o Overconfidence
- o .....and more
- o Mission Myopia
- o Overload
- o Mission and goals
- o Command support
- o Cognitive biases
- o Peer and supervisor pressure
- o Task fixation
- o Miscommunication



**Richard B. Gasaway** worked as a first responder in three public safety organisations including serving 22 years as a Fire Chief. After completing his distinguished 30-year career, Dr. Gasaway founded Situational Awareness Matters! a consulting and teaching organisation dedicated to improving how individuals, teams and organisations develop situational awareness as a foundation for improving workplace and personal safety. His company website (SAMatters.com) has been visited by more than four million people from 156 countries.

As a professional speaker and author, Dr. Gasaway has contributed to more than 400 books, book chapters and journal articles on topics related to leadership, safety, situational awareness and high consequence decision making. His bestselling books, Situational Awareness Matters, Volumes 1, 2 and 3, Situational Awareness for Emergency Response, and Fireground Command Decision Making, serve as

essential guides for helping individuals and teams develop and maintain situational awareness while making high-stress, high-consequence decisions.

**When: Tuesday 10 October 2017 8.30am - 4.30pm (lunch and refreshments provided)**

**Where: Wellington, Venue to be confirmed**

**Booking is essential as places are limited: Contact for bookings: [angela.fisher@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:angela.fisher@fireandemergency.nz)**

**No cost associated with attendance, but travel to and from the venue will be at your own expense**