



Probation Association of New Jersey

Serving New Jersey Since 1904

An affiliate of the American Probation and Parole Association

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Presidential Newsletter July 14, 2016 Officer Awareness

Taking into account events throughout the country, specifically the shooting deaths of five Police Officers in Dallas and the shooting deaths of two Deputies in a Michigan Courtroom, it is important to utilize situational awareness, on a daily basis, as you perform your job. The job of Probations Officers and Supervisors is inherently dangerous. It does not matter if you are in the field, office or a program, be aware of your surroundings.

Situational awareness is constantly being aware of your surroundings to identify possibly dangerous situations and environments that are not normal. This practice should be utilized in the field, office and other areas where you perform your job. Officer safety is always the paramount consideration and good judgement must be used to ensure that safety. Trust your instinct.

Review all available reports for an individual under supervision prior to meeting with the person or performing field work. Is the case a transfer in? Is there a PSI or rap sheet from the sending Jurisdiction? Who lives in the house? Animals? Is there intelligence available prior to doing filed work? If information is not present or something does not seem appropriate, have a discussion with your supervisor or manager.

When in the field wear your vest, have OC spray on you and make sure you have a continuing dialogue with your partner. Be aware of any incident reports concerning areas that you will be in that day. Your safety is the #1 priority. If something does not seem right remove yourself from the situation. Safely report it to your supervisor or law enforcement.

If a situation occurs no matter how minor you think it is, make sure you file an incident report and send a copy to the PANJ Office via fax 1-732-223-1799 or via email at panj1@panj.org. This is EXTREMELY important with regards to tracking incidents and fighting for better and continuing training. Call our office with any questions or to make us aware of particular situations.

BE SAFE!
In Solidarity,
Dwight Covalleskie