

## **Human Factor Barriers to Situation Awareness**

### **Low Experience Level with Local Factors**

- Unfamiliar with the area or the organizational structure.

### **Distraction from Primary Task**

- Radio traffic.
- Conflict.
- Previous errors.
- Collateral duties.
- Incident Within an Incident (IWI).

### **Fatigue**

- Carbon monoxide.
- Dehydration.
- Heat stress.
- Poor fitness level can reduce resistance to fatigue.
- 24 hours awake affects your decision-making capability like .10 blood alcohol content.

## **Stress Reactions**

- Communication deteriorates or grows tense.
- Habitual or repetitive behavior.
- Target fixation – Locking into a course of action; whether it makes sense or not, just try harder.
- Action tunneling – Focusing on small tasks, but ignoring the big picture.
- Escalation of commitment – Accepting increased risk as completion of task gets near.

## **Hazardous Attitudes**

- Invulnerable – That can't happen to us.
- Anti-authority – Disregard of the team effort.
- Impulsive – Do something even if it's wrong.
- Macho – Trying to impress or prove something.
- Complacent – Just another routine fire.
- Resigned – We can't make a difference.
- Group Think – Afraid to speak up or disagree.