

Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation



OFFICER SAFETY NEWSLETTER



Welcome

Spring 2022 - The year is off to a great start! Our list of COSS graduates continues to grow into the hundreds. ICC invited us on their podcast for a national discussion on officer safety. We continue to partner with associations and chapters to provide training and representation at conferences. CEOSEF is excited to see more and more folks volunteer their time to help promote the benefits of CEOSEF across the country. Thank you Regional Representatives!

Our Mission Statement:

"The Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation exists to promote best practices for the safety of Code Enforcement Officers throughout the United States; to provide a resource for officers; report incidents; provide up-to-date training and to encourage a high standard of professionalism within our chosen profession."

Sponsors



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Upcoming Training



CODE OFFICIAL SAFETY SPECIALIST

15 Hours of Officer Safety Training
Sign-Up Any Time!
CEOSF Code Official Safety Specialist certification *on demand*.

- Tactical Mindset
- Fear Management
- Verbal De-escalation
- Three Phases of a Contact
- Surviving a Violent Encounter

ICC PREFERRED EDUCATION PROVIDER

VIRTUAL TRAINING: To Learn more and enroll: [CLICK HERE](#)



CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SAFETY FOUNDATION

MAY 18th 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM EST
FREE

Legislative Strategies

Learn about building legislative support and getting legislation passed.

WWW.CODEOFFICIALSAFETY.ORG

To Learn more and register for free: [CLICK HERE](#)

Welcome Our New Representatives!



ELAINE GARRETT - REGION 10

Elaine will represent the states of TX, OK, and AR. She is a Code Enforcement Assistant Director in Texas. She has 28 years of experience in Law Enforcement and 14 years of experience in Code Enforcement. She is also a COSS graduate!

When asked why she supports CEOSF, she stated "My support of CEOSF is rooted in the passion and devotion to officer safety and survival in their daily work performance. I truly believe that knowledge and awareness for all those in this industry is the key to making their jobs as successful and safe as possible."



LAYNE CHAMBERLAIN - REGION 11

Layne will represent the states of AZ, UT, CO, and NM. He is a Zoning Compliance Official in Colorado. He has 12 years experience in law enforcement and is a veteran.

"My support of CEOSF is centered around my interest towards Officer Safety. Awareness and training are key to staying safe in this line of work and I have yet to find any other resources dedicated specifically to the safety regulatory officials."



JEREMY KOVINCHICK - SECRETARY/TREASURER APPOINTMENT

The Board of Directors unanimously appointed Jeremy to our vacant Board seat as the Interim Secretary/Treasurer. Jeremy had previously served as a Regional Representative for Region 11 and is a Code Enforcement Officer in Colorado.

In March 2022, the Board of Directors voted to appoint Jeremy as the official Secretary/Treasurer of CEOSF and no longer in an interim role. Congratulations! We look forward to great success!

Interested in Volunteering?

Are you interested in volunteering with the Foundation? We are still looking for Regional Representatives and others who are passionate about moving this topic forward. No matter your skill set, reach out to us to inquire. Commitment is minimal in terms of time and you get to be a part of a growing non-profit Foundation. Check out our Volunteer page at www.codeofficersafety.org/volunteers and email us at info@codeofficersafety.org

De-escalation as Your First Line of Defense

by Justin Edson, CCEA, COSS, SAS®

Across the country inspectors are tasked with different duties and work in starkly different environments. Whether you are a Building, Fire, Housing, or Code Inspector – our daily job is filled with human interactions and negotiating. I pride myself in being able to talk to an irate resident who is cussing and screaming, and within minutes agree on a path forward sealed with a handshake. This is a skill-set that inspectors have to develop overtime to perfect, which is the art of human interaction and understanding.

I attribute the foundation of my skills to my first full-time job – a Parking Enforcement Officer (or meter maid as some folks called me) in a popular Southern California beach city. I realized quickly how important it was to be tactful in “selling” your ticket to the violator. In some cases we are talking about a \$30 parking ticket. I received death threats, been cussed at, and called every name in the book. Yet, writing an average of 500 citations a month I never received a personnel complaint about my professionalism. Our department sent us to some POST classes including Tactical Communication. This was helpful, but it comes down to daily use and practice.



Like I mentioned, we all handle different violations from agency to agency. I have worked for four cities in California across three counties. In my first city I worked weekends until 2:00am regulating conditional use permits (CUP) for 20+ bars. In addition to this, I picked up other duties as assigned. The city saw an increase of fishing complaints at the pier and Fish & Game was stretched thin. So they provided us with training on writing criminal cites for fishing violations. Then Fourth of July rolled around and when our PD was tied up, we were dispatched to firework calls. The city passed a no-smoking ordinance in public places and made it criminal. You guessed it, I was tasked with the enforcement. One night I was in downtown writing a criminal cite to a young man smoking marijuana. For context all I had was a uniform and a police radio. As I ask him to sign the citation he signs it “F@ck you.” Ding ding ding! Red flag alert for situational awareness. I stepped back and freed my hand for the radio. His personality began to immediately change as I backed up a few feet. He picked up his skateboard at his feet in a manner I knew would be used as a weapon. I keyed the mic for code-3 (CA code for HELP!) and luckily I had already put myself out and dispatch had my location. He swung at my head with the skateboard, which was potentially fatal. I luckily dodged and gained ground in reverse. I worked in a small city and Police Officers could get anywhere in under a minute. Calvary arrived and tackled him!

I share this example to show how we take on a variety of duties and in most cases are ill-equipped to keep safe. Did I have a chance to walk away? No, unless I was Flash and could bolt in one millisecond. That escalated instantly and the interaction was calm prior to asking for a signature. Did I have a chance to de-escalate? No. A smoking citation isn't worth anyone's life.

Training & Fighting Complacency

There is a lot of officer safety training out there, period. Whether it is designed for our industry (COSS Program) or hosted through a law enforcement provider, there is a lot. I have been to numerous classes in person, virtually, through Police, and through Code Enforcement. My only tip is read the flyer and see the instructors experience. It is not hard to see during a class if the instructor actually knows what they are teaching. Are they vague or dodge questions? Not a good sign. I urge all of you to look for continuous officer safety training on all topics and pay attention. Just as you go to classes on new code updates, we need to focus on our personal safety on a continuous basis.

EVERY INSPECTION. This phrases has been spreading like wild fire. Simple and meaningful. Every inspection must be treated differently. Do not expect that you will do the same exact thing at every inspection. You might be fortunate to go 3 years, 5 years, 10 years, or over 20 years without any serious conflict or assault in your job. That does not mean you can fall into complacency. Inspector Don Juenemann was on the job for 25 years and about one year from retirement. He went to do a quick inspection on Christmas Eve 1997, something I think a lot of us would do to help our community. The owner murdered him and buried him on the property because he thought Don would red tag and evict him. **He was one year from retirement.**

Fight complacency by attending training and thinking to yourself every day. I am by no means telling you to fear your job every day, but that we all need to not assume the inspection will be the same as the last one. Do not assume the same contractor or home owner you have worked with for years will be the same during this inspection. We are all human and over time may experience loss, financial hardship, emotional distress, divorce, etc. I spoke to a Building Official in another state a few months back where he went to a job site and met with a contractor he has worked with on different projects. He issued him a correction notice for a minor issue. The contractor picked up a wrench and was going to swing it at him. The Building Official exclaimed to him, "What are you doing?" He admitted he did not know what came over him, but did not like being called out for doing something wrong.

Tips on De-escalation

I recently read a good article at PoliceOne about de-escalation being a strong skill and lifeline for rural cops. The more I read the quotes from rural police officers, the more I saw similarity in what we do and feel in code enforcement. By and large in the United States, Code Enforcement and inspectors of all trades are not armed or equipped with any self-defense tools. Ask these questions to yourself:

- How do I call for help if I crash, get assaulted, or injure myself on the job site? Do I have a radio or cell phone? Is it accessible?
- What is the response time? Do I work in a large rural county where police and fire is a 30-60 minute drive away?
- Am I driving out to people's private property alone? Do co-workers know where I am at?

I worked for cities that were 1 square mile to 45 square miles in size. They had property values that varied from \$300,000 to several million dollars. Some of the officer safety incidents I experienced were similar across the board. You can change the environment, but not people and their emotions. De-escalation techniques are your first line of defense. How you hold yourself, conduct yourself, speak to people, and work with people determines what happens next in a lot of ways. I have been in many situations where I knew I was interacting with someone who was emotionally charged. I tried extra hard to reason with them and seek common ground. You may also work and live in the same community. I would advise against this, but it is common. One female Code Enforcement Officer I had the pleasure of speaking to in the northeast told me how residents will come to her home on her days off about a notice they received. She had to put cameras up and is more worried about who will come knocking.

As life safety inspectors who are charged with regulating codes in the community, we need to understand people and look for ways to de-escalate.

- Introduce yourself – I prefer first name and agency (more personal compared to Officer ____)
- Be identifiable with uniforms, badge, jacket, etc.
- Explain what the concerns is (not problem) and let them speak, maybe they have reasons.
- Seek to understand them. Maybe it was financial hardship or a spouse passed away.
- If there is no immediate danger, look for ways to work together with deadline extensions, resources, etc.
- Explain why this code is important – safety of them and others.
- Listen to the words they use and their body language. What are they holding, how are they standing, and their tone.
- Constantly reassess how you will respond as they speak, scan the room, watch the hands, and treat them as a human and not an inmate.
- Remember – we are dealing with people's private property and remember many people believe the government should not intrude on their property or tell them what to do.

De-escalation involves understanding the other person and the phrases you use to converse with them. When you come in hot with a notice and "this is the law" attitude, you are poisoning the potential relationship. I understand there are folks we just can't effectively communicate with. Then back out of the situation and mail them a notice or call them by phone. First line of defense is your approach to de-escalation. If that does not work then walk away. If you are pinned and unable to walk away, fight for your life. **Walking away is always the goal, but not always an option.**

CEOSF at State Trainings

The Foundation is honored to have the support of several state associations and for their invitations to come to their trainings. We want to thank their Board of Directors for their continued support of our partnership and working together to promote officer safety in the profession.



Colorado Association of Code Enforcement Officers

Thank you CACEO Board of Directors for allowing our Secretary/Treasurer Jeremy Kovinchick and Regional Representative Layne Chamberlain the chance to speak about officer safety and CEOSF.

Over 100 professionals were in attendance at this Quarterly Training. We were excited to answer questions and hand out swag! **#Partnership**



CEOSF Vice President Tim Sun presents OCEA Board of Directors with Certificates of Recognition



CEOSF Vice President Tim Sun accepts award from OCEA President Felix Nance



Oklahoma Code Enforcement Association

Thank you to the Board of Directors for inviting CEOSF out to do a full day class on officer safety by Vice President Tim Sun. They presented an award of appreciation to CEOSF Vice President Tim Sun. CEOSF presented the OCEA Board of Directors with Certificates of Recognition for their continued support of officer safety and the mission of CEOSF. Sun taught a full day class on officer safety and CEOSF donated 2 body armor vests! (left)

The Path to Complacency

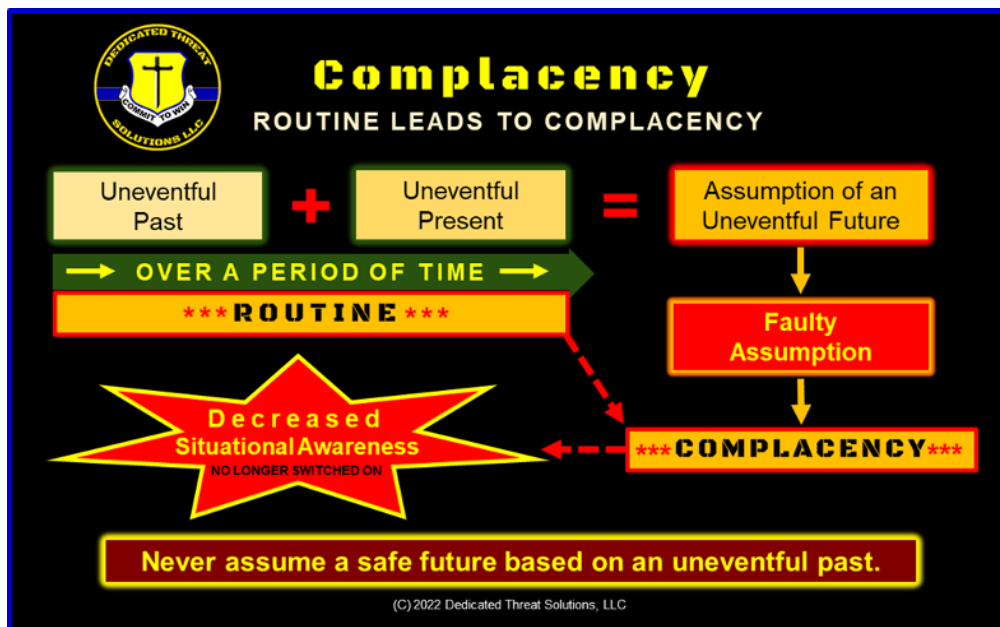
by Scott Kirshner, M.Ed., COSCI, SAS-AP®

Most people are not as good at situational awareness as they would like to believe. You can put this statement to the test over the next 2-3 days simply by observing people. I believe you will quickly realize that most people are not aware of their surroundings and not prepared to avoid violence. I suspect you will see many people exhibiting 45 degree syndrome with their head buried in their cellphone. You will see people wearing headphones oblivious to what is going on or who is around them. You will see people with no level of situational awareness blissfully going about their day in Condition White completely unprepared should anything happen, especially violence. And what you observe is the norm. It is not an anomaly. If you were to inquire regarding their state of unawareness and inattention you would hear excuses, denial, rationalization, and justification.

It's all good...until it isn't!

With the increased emphasis on officer safety there is a lot of talk about Situational Awareness training. I am a firm believer in situational awareness training as it is a vital skill. And like any skill it needs to be learned, developed, and practiced. As previously stated, in my experience I have found that most people are not nearly as good at situational awareness as they would like to believe. And the reality is that you cannot protect yourself from a threat that you do not know exists.

There are many reasons why situational awareness is not effectively utilized. This is a comprehensive topic so I will only focus on one reason which is complacency. It is common to hear the saying "complacency kills" yet that does not seem to be a motivating factor resulting in behavior change to decrease complacency and increase situational awareness. Let's examine how routine leads to complacency which negatively impacts situational awareness.



Routine is an Insidious Trainer

It is common to discuss routine and complacency in relation to officer safety. Oftentimes though it is not contextualized in a manner that is meaningful. It is one thing to have a general idea of what situational awareness, complacency, and routine means. It is very different to understand the relationship between such concepts and how they impact your safety. The above graphic is not complex or difficult to understand. But the concepts, implications, and corrective measures are extremely comprehensive. For the sake of brevity, I will keep this at a birds-eye view.

The Path to Complacency - Continued

UNEVENTFUL PAST

As a code professional you go to work every day and perform your essential job duties. Each day that goes by without a safety incident establishes a baseline of normalcy. The longer this occurs the more likely you are to develop an unconscious expectation of normalcy in which you assume that the past can be a predictive forecast of the future.

UNEVENTFUL PRESENT

Your unconscious expectation of normalcy which has developed over time leads you to believe that “today” at work will be uneventful because of the UNEVENTFUL PAST. The longer you have experienced such an UNEVENTFUL PAST the stronger your unconscious expectation of normalcy becomes ingrained. You are now habituated by routine. From an officer safety perspective this means you no longer take proactive safety measure, rarely think about safety, and tend to deny and minimize legitimate risks to your safety. This can lead to overconfidence and poor decision-making regarding safety.

The UNEVENTFUL PAST and UNEVENTFUL PRESENT is a process that occurs over a period of time. Routine provides a false sense of security and simultaneously a level of comfort in that you no longer feel the need to consider safety. You then unconsciously take the UNEVENTFUL PAST and UNEVENTFUL PRESENT and extrapolate it to an uneventful future which is based on a faulty assumption. This forms the direct link between ROUTINE and COMPLACENCY. The outcome has a negative impact on situational awareness leading to either no situational awareness or decreased situational awareness. Your “risk thermostat” is turned off leaving you open to violence and victimization.

LACK OF SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Not having situational awareness comes with consequences some of which include:

- You will not be in Condition Yellow
- You will be an easy target for an Ambush Attack
- You will be behind in the OODA Loop if attacked
- Your response to an act of violence will be delayed
- Your response may result in an under-response or over-response
- You may end up in Condition Black
- You may be seriously injured
- You may be killed

This process demonstrates the need for situational awareness training and for code professionals to practice these skills. Keep in mind this is only one reason why people do not have situational awareness. There are many other reasons as well.

As safety is gaining more attention in the code profession there is an increased emphasis on officer safety training which is good. The problem is that there is an over-emphasis on training which focuses solely on situational awareness and verbal de-escalation. If this is the mainstay of officer safety training, then it is severely lacking. Such training presupposes that situational awareness will always be effective to avoid encounters or that verbal de-escalation will be effective to mitigate violence. It fails to account for the reality that:

- Situational awareness does not guarantee you will observe and identify all threats
- The threat has a say in all encounters which means that de-escalation skills are not guaranteed to be effective

The Path to Complacency - Continued

If officer safety training were to only consist of situational awareness and verbal de-escalation skills, then it is an incomplete program. It assumes that no incident would ever escalate to violence which is not accurate.

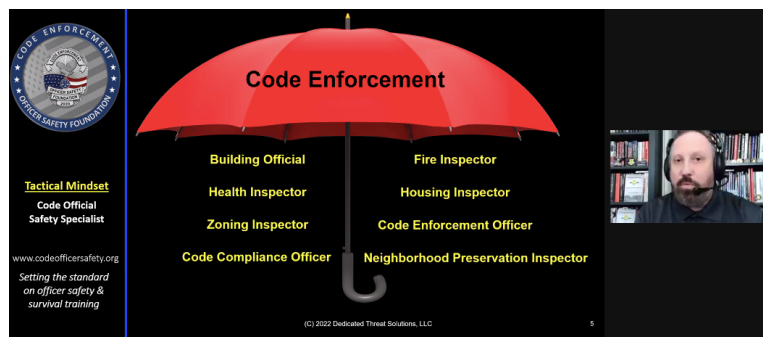
Too often situational awareness training is presented as a complete safety solution. Even if you had perfect situational awareness and were able to identify every threat that is only part of the equation it is not even the most important part of situational awareness. Do you know what the most important aspect is that I am referring to regarding situational awareness? I will leave you with that to consider...

The Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation is offering a comprehensive 5 course **Code Official Safety Specialist (COSS)** training program which is now available on-demand. ICC CEU's are available for each course. Each course comes with a comprehensive participant workbook which includes activities to enhance your knowledge and application of the learning objectives.

The 5 courses are:

1. Tactical Mindset
2. Fear Management
3. Verbal De-escalation
4. 3 Phases of a Contact
5. Surviving a Violent Encounter.

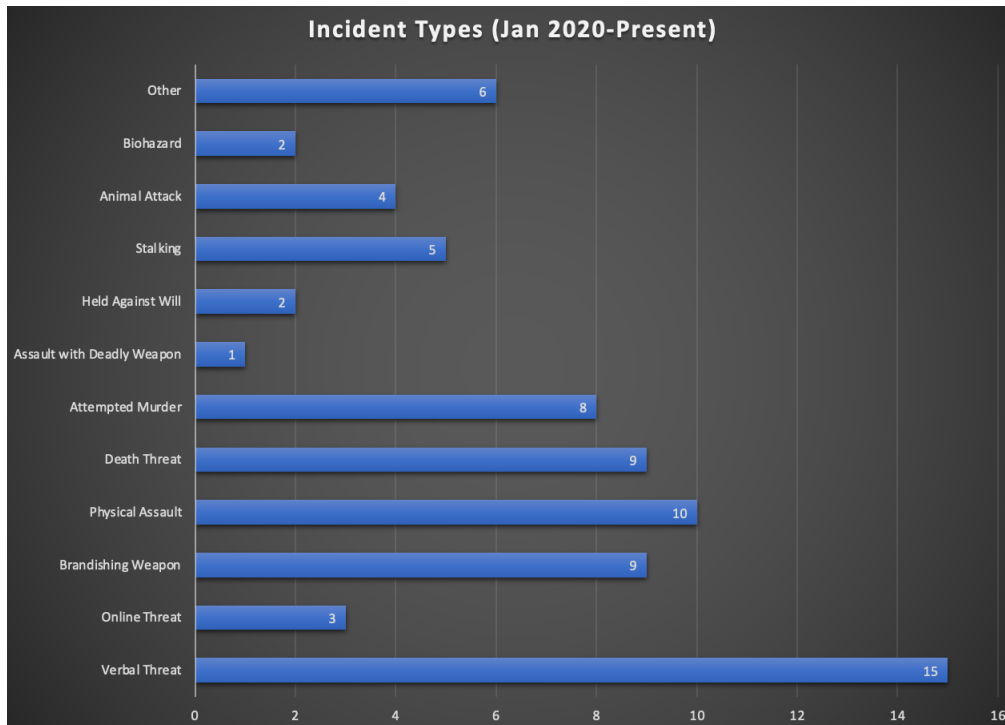
This is a 15-hour training program that goes well beyond the basics. Additionally, this training is applicable to ALL JURISDICTIONS. This training program will provide you with a very solid foundation of officer safety skills.



About the Author

Scott Kirshner, M.Ed., COSCI, SAS-AP® has been a Parole Administrator, Supervisory Probation Officer, and a Corrections Officer. He has extensive experience as an officer survival trainer and has been a lead defensive tactics instructor, firearms instructor, and use of force instructor. He is the author of *Officer Survival for Code Enforcement Officers*. Mr. Kirshner is the owner and Lead Instructor of *Dedicated Threat Solutions, LLC*. The author can be reached at: info@dedicatedthreatsolutions.com or to learn more visit: www.dedicatedthreatsolutions.com

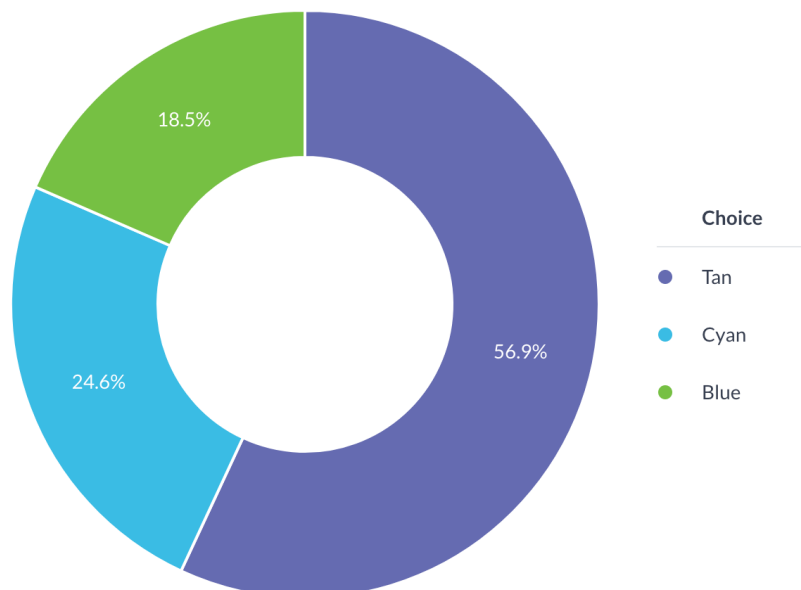
Incident Data



This is data from January 2020 to present that has been reported to CEOSF. A total of 74 incidents have been reported to us nationally during this period. We have an updated feed of these incidents and their details on our "Statistics" page on the website. Please do not forget to report any incidents that occur to you. As you can see on our website, we keep everything confidential and only share the state, date, and description.

Report incidents: <https://www.codeofficersafety.org/report-incident>

Thin Line Survey Results



1st Amendment Auditors - Patriots or Provocateurs? (Pt. 1)

by Kirk Palmer, Master Code Officer (GA), COSCI

The 1st Amendment to the US Constitution:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Have you ever heard the term: 1st Amendment Audit or 1st Amendment Auditor? If not, get ready because the audits and auditors will be coming to your town soon. The outcome could be good or disastrous, depending on your response to them. When I speak of “disastrous”, I’m referring to monetary settlements reached with 1st Amendment Auditors, who had their 1st or 4th Amendment rights violated during an “audit.” For example, in the last few years the following jurisdictions paid out the following settlements:

- Colorado Springs, CO - \$41,000
- Manchester NH - \$275,000
- Baltimore MD - \$220,000
- Fall River MA - \$72,500
- Cobb County GA - \$100,000 (not audit specific but a 1st Amendment Violation nonetheless)

That’s a total of \$708,500 in damages! Is that disastrous enough for you? Would you want to be responsible for causing a monetary settlement of these magnitudes in your jurisdiction?

What is a 1st Amendment Audit? These “audits” are a relatively new phenomenon in the American Social movement scene. The “audits” involve photographing or filming in a public place. “Auditors” believe that the movement promotes transparency and open government. However, audits are often confrontational in nature, as auditors often refuse to self-identify or explain their activities. Auditors are usually self-promoting individuals, operating as pseudo-journalists, who post their “audits” on social media platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

1st Amendment “Auditors” use tactics like Sovereign Citizens; in that, they go into government offices refusing to give their names, but demanding government employees give theirs while videoing the whole encounter. In many instances, they harass government employees with no legitimate reason to be there other than to film. The goal is to provoke these government employees into violating their 1st or 4th Amendment rights, which will be the basis for a “1983 Civil Rights Lawsuit.”



What motivates these “Auditors?” In simple terms: notoriety and the satisfaction of making government officials “look bad.” Contrary to what you might think, 1st Amendment “Auditors” aren’t stupid. They’ve conducted just enough research to know how far they can go in such encounters (often aided by the ACLU). Most are master manipulators with narcissistic personalities, who love to bait government officials into violating their 1st or 4th Amendment Rights. As narcissists, “auditors” believe they are smarter than the average government employee.

Unfortunately, due to ego or just ignorance of the law, government officials often fall into the “auditors” trap. Once this occurs, a lawsuit is a foregone conclusion...

Until our next installment, remember this statement: “Taking photographs or recording from a public place in and of itself does not constitute suspicious activity...” I’ll explain its significance next time... Stay alert and don’t get hurt!

About the Author

Kirk Palmer, COSCI is a Master Code Officer (GA) with 26 years of public safety experience. He is currently the Code Compliance Supervisor for Forsyth County, Georgia. In addition, he is an Officer Safety Instructor for the Georgia Association of Code Enforcement Officials (GACE) and a CEOSF Officer Safety Certified Instructor (COSCI).

The Importance of Mental Health

by Cheynne Sanderson, CCEO, COSS

Why is mental health so important? Whether you're an inspector, code enforcement officers, compliance specialist, whatever you want to call yourself, the likelihood you will encounter a situation that you will never forget is 100% guaranteed. Without a doubt, if you stay in the "code profession" long enough you will deal with homeless, hoarders, argumentative individuals, toxic work environments, etc., etc. the list goes on. It takes a certain type of individual to be able to evaluate a situation, process that situation, and come up with a plan of action for said situation. Situations they themselves can't even fathom. This day in and day out, repetitive nature is exhausting on the mental resiliency. This is why it is extremely important to take care of yourself mentally.



Talk to colleagues, trained mental health professionals, family, and friends about things you have seen. Go fishing, hunting, running, do something positive. You have to be able to pause, evaluate your own well-being and know when to take a break. Everyone is different and everyone handles/processes these situations differently. Some people joke or make light of the situation, others may pray about it, some talk about, others journal. We hear about work life balance all the time, "Don't take work home with you", that's great and all, but the reality is we have seen stuff in this field we wish we didn't have to.



Remember to take care of you. Your co-workers depend on you, your family depends on you and more importantly, you depend on yourself. Don't go unchecked. Whether you're a military veteran, first responder, dispatcher, doctor, anyone that has a higher probability to be in this situations, don't wait or thinking your stronger than that. We have to be able to check ourselves from time to time. So again I ask, "Why is mental health so important?"



About the Author

Cheyne Sanderson is a Code Enforcement Officer II in California and serves as the Marketing Director for CEOSF. He is a Certified Code Enforcement Officer and Code Official Safety Specialist (COSS). Cheyne is also a proud veteran!

Recent Incidents

March 24th (PA) - Followed up on a complaint of standing sewage in a basement. I arrived at the subject property to investigate the complaint and the buildings occupant was agitated almost immediately, this quickly escalated to him blocking my egress from the property and making multiple threats and acting aggressively towards me (i.e. "I am going to hurt someone", "I am going to fuck you up", etc.). The defendant's girlfriend eventually calmed him and the incident was brought under control.

March 1st (TX) - I have had complaints on this property since 2020. On March 1, 2022 the neighbor came by the office complaining of the smell and about the human feces that were placed by the neighbor on the corner of her fence. I asked the neighbor for permission to inspect the property, which she agreed to. When my assistant, Public Work director, and I went to the property. The neighbor with the nuisance whom I have been dealing with for the last 2 years came towards us with a machete as she approached maybe 15 ft. away she placed it on the ground. As soon as she came close she came right towards me and started to spit at me and after I walked away she then got a ball and threw it at me and hit me. Luckily it was a soft ball. All this I was on the neighbors side with a chain link fence between us. Police Dept. arrived and she was arrested taken to jail for harassment of a public servant.

February 20th (GA) - During the weekend of February 18th to 20th 2022, several threatening voicemails were left on our department's voicemail from a presumed Sovereign Citizen, specifically a "Sovereign _____". The individual had been issued a summons a year before by Animal Services for "animal running at large." The individual had failed to answer the summons in court, was sent a letter informing him of a new court date, and subsequently failed to appear a second time. At that point, the court issued a bench warrant for the individual's arrest. The local Sheriff's Office had apparently called the individual and told him to appear in court or be arrested. In the course of the call, the Sheriff's Office referred the individual back to Code Compliance and Animal Services, to "work something out." This apparently infuriated the individual who stated to the Sheriff's Office "he wasn't subject to these regulations and this was supposed to have been dropped!" In turn, the individual called Code Compliance and Animal Services, and went on a five-minute, profanity laced tirade against Code Compliance and Animal services demanding the summons be rescinded amongst other demands. The individual stated in his first message: "I'm going to call every five (expletive) minutes until I (expletive) talk to (expletive) somebody! In his final call, the individual said: "I'm coming down there Monday and some bad (expletive) is going to (expletive) happen! The Sheriff's Office subsequently upped their patrols around the Code Compliance and Animal Service's office and issued a BOLO for the individual. At the time of this report, the individual remains at large.

February 8th (GA) - The violator went on an expletive filled tirade about "big brother" and "government intrusion and violation of private property rights." During the conversation, he told our Admin "that if I ever came near his property again, he was going to 'stomp my (expletive)!" I informed my Supervisor and a police report was taken. While this violator did not come out and say he was a "Sovereign Citizen", his actions and verbiage strongly indicated that he at least subscribed to sovereign ideals. As a result, my Supervisor and Director have told me that if enforcement action needs to be taken in future, I am not to go out alone (obviously) and to have at least two Sheriff's Deputies accompany me to the location.

January 10th (CO) - Officers and cleanup crew were working a property when the occupants father, attempted to ram his vehicle into the team. He aimed the Chevy Tahoe at them and hit the gas, ramming the vehicle into a tree where the team had been working. Only by luck, no one was injured as they were able to jump out of the way in time.

Report incidents: <https://www.codeofficersafety.org/report-incident>

Thank You Partners!

CEOSF wants to thank all of our partner associations and sponsors! We appreciate state associations supporting the Foundation and the topic of officer safety for their members. It is important to recognize these associations for their commitment to their membership and keeping them safe. It is exciting to gain the support of the International Code Council (ICC). The Board of Directors met with their executives and were thrilled to hear of ICC's passion for the safety of the professionals in the building safety industry.



In Memory

From April through June we remember and honor those who have died serving their communities.

April 17th – **MICKEY WRIGHT**, Tennessee
(21st anniversary - Murder)

June 1st – **HUGO ROJAS**, Wisconsin
(2nd anniversary - COVID-19)

June 13th – **MICHAEL WALKER**, Texas
(17th anniversary - Murder)

June 21st – **JEAN HILLERY**, California
(22nd anniversary - Murder)

June 21st – **TOM QUADROS**, California
(22nd anniversary - Murder)

June 21st – **BILL SHALINE**, California
(22nd anniversary - Murder)



CEOSF Officer Safety Certified Instructor (COSCI)



The Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation (CEOSF) is proud to announce the launch of the CEOSF Officer Safety Certified Instructor (COSCI) program to recognize and acknowledge code professionals and trainers who possess qualifications to provide officer safety and survival instruction. These individuals exhibit “best practices” in training delivery by being highly recommended by Department Directors and by maintaining their training skills through the completion of continuing professional education instructor course work. This program is for all professional trainers to include code enforcement officers, building inspectors, fire inspectors, housing inspectors, zoning inspectors, health inspectors, animal control officers, peace officers, sheriff deputies, academic instructors, private trainers, and others interested in improving code enforcement officer safety/survival training and individual instructional skill sets.

The CEOSF Officer Safety Certified Instructor (COSCI) program recognizes and acknowledges qualified officer safety and survival instructors who provide high-quality best practices training to code professionals. The Foundation believes it is extremely important to have instructors who are qualified, vetted, and experienced to facilitate courses on officer safety/survival especially as the topic of officer safety is becoming more prevalent within the code enforcement profession. Time in position, in and of itself, is not a qualification standard to be a trainer especially relating to officer safety. It is also easy for “instructors” to facilitate officer safety classes without having the proper credentials and experience to teach on the topic. The Foundation views such practices as not only unsafe but morally and ethically wrong. By setting a certification standard based on documented instructor qualifications and experience the Foundation can recommend to the profession, with confidence, that training professionals who have the COSCI designation are qualified to facilitate training on officer safety for code professionals. All trainers who have COSCI certification have:

- Successfully completed a general instructor certification program and provided documented proof of completion
- More than 3 years of experience facilitating courses on officer safety/survival
- Provided documentation of officer safety and survival training certifications and courses completed
- Endorsements from a Code Director, POST Director, or Law Enforcement Academy Director, or three references
- A commitment to continuing education regarding instructor development
- An unwavering passion for officer safety

What are the benefits of becoming a CEOSF Officer Safety Certified Instructor (COSCI)?

- Receive an identification card with the CEOSF seal documenting your Officer Safety Certified Instructor status and expiration date
- Receive a CEOSF Officer Safety Certified Instructor certificate, suitable for framing
- Post your picture and biographical information on your CEOSF Officer Safety Certified Instructor webpage with links back to your webpage if applicable
- Use the COSCI Badge for emails or business cards.
- Use the CEOSF Officer Safety Certified Instructor Program acronym COSCI on your business cards, letterhead, email signature, etc. Example: Justin Edson, CCEO, COSS, COSCI
- “Charter member” status designated on ID card for the first 50 members

Contact Us



Newsletter

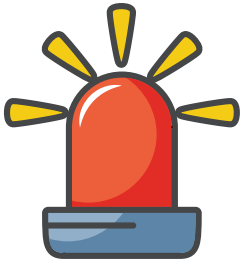
Please contact us if you have a question regarding our newsletter, would like to see a specific topic in the next one, or would like to be a contributor.

For general questions & newsletter requests: info@CodeOfficerSafety.org



Partnerships

If you would like to become a recognized partner as an association that supports us or as a donor, then please contact Justin Edson at justin@codeofficersafety.org



Body Armor Donation Requests

Are you a Code Enforcement Officer in need of body armor and either can't afford it or your agency does not provide one? Please fill out our Request A Vest form at www.codeofficersafety.org/requestavest



Remember to Report

The data we collect is dependent on you reporting incidents when they occur. The data is used by state associations and jurisdictions to make a case on officer safety legislation and equipment. Whether you were threatened, assaulted, stalked, or attacked by an animal; it is all important data. We keep your information and agency information private.

www.CodeOfficerSafety.org