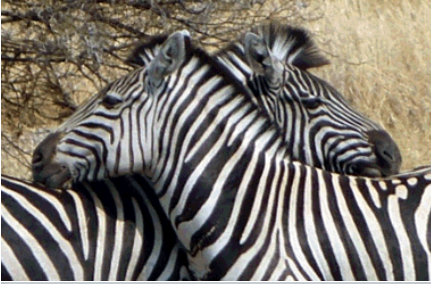


# Learning Safety from the Experts in the Savannah



Safety is the number one priority for population groups living in the Savannah. They are specialists at situational awareness. They have a finely defined approach to hazard identification, risk assessment and controls. They have defined roles, clear communications, clear priorities and clear plans.

Failure means they are dinner.

Did you know...

- The zebras “watch each other’s back” for hazards?
- The Cape buffalo keep the most vulnerable in the middle of the herd and “stand united for safety”?
- The baboons are “on guard” for safety?
- The elephants say, “respect the boundaries”?



They know that hazards are always present; prowling or hidden.



In 1997 Janine Benyus introduced us to “biomimicry;” looking to nature to solve engineering problems. Sociobiology is the study of animal’s behavior. Can we learn safety practices from the animals in the Savannah; a form of “sociobiomimicry”? It seems that, as humans, we have forgotten what comes automatically to the animals; situational awareness and a priority to stay safe. In the baboon community, they know that one must go up the tree and be on guard for harm to the troop foraging below. It is not clear that it is male or female; a four hour shift or eight; is the position certified or not; whose turn is it? What IS clear is that they value their safety; they value hazard identification; they value taking action before it is too late. Dare it be said they demonstrate ‘caring’ for each other?



Could *you* be “on guard” for safety today? Could *you* choose to be personally alert for anything that could harm those around you; at work, at home, at the grocery store? The requirement is to never be complacent with risk. People would be more alert if hazards presented themselves like a leopard. When a leopard walks into the work area, attention and respect are immediately given. Situational awareness is on high alert. Safety and survival are the pre-eminent goals. Learning good safety practices are easy when taught by the experts. Even the ducks have a safety plan; check it out at <http://myvaluetree.com/mother-duck-has-a-plan-do-you/>



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