

SAFETY ASPECTS OF TRANSMISSION VEGETATION CONTROL

ISA Texas

Texas Tree Conference

September 26 - 28, 2018

Waco, Texas



BENJAMIN L THORP III | UTILITY FORESTER SR

BLTHORP@AEP.COM | D:956.721.3066 | C:956.489.9063

1519 W CALTON RD, LAREDO, TX 78041-5723

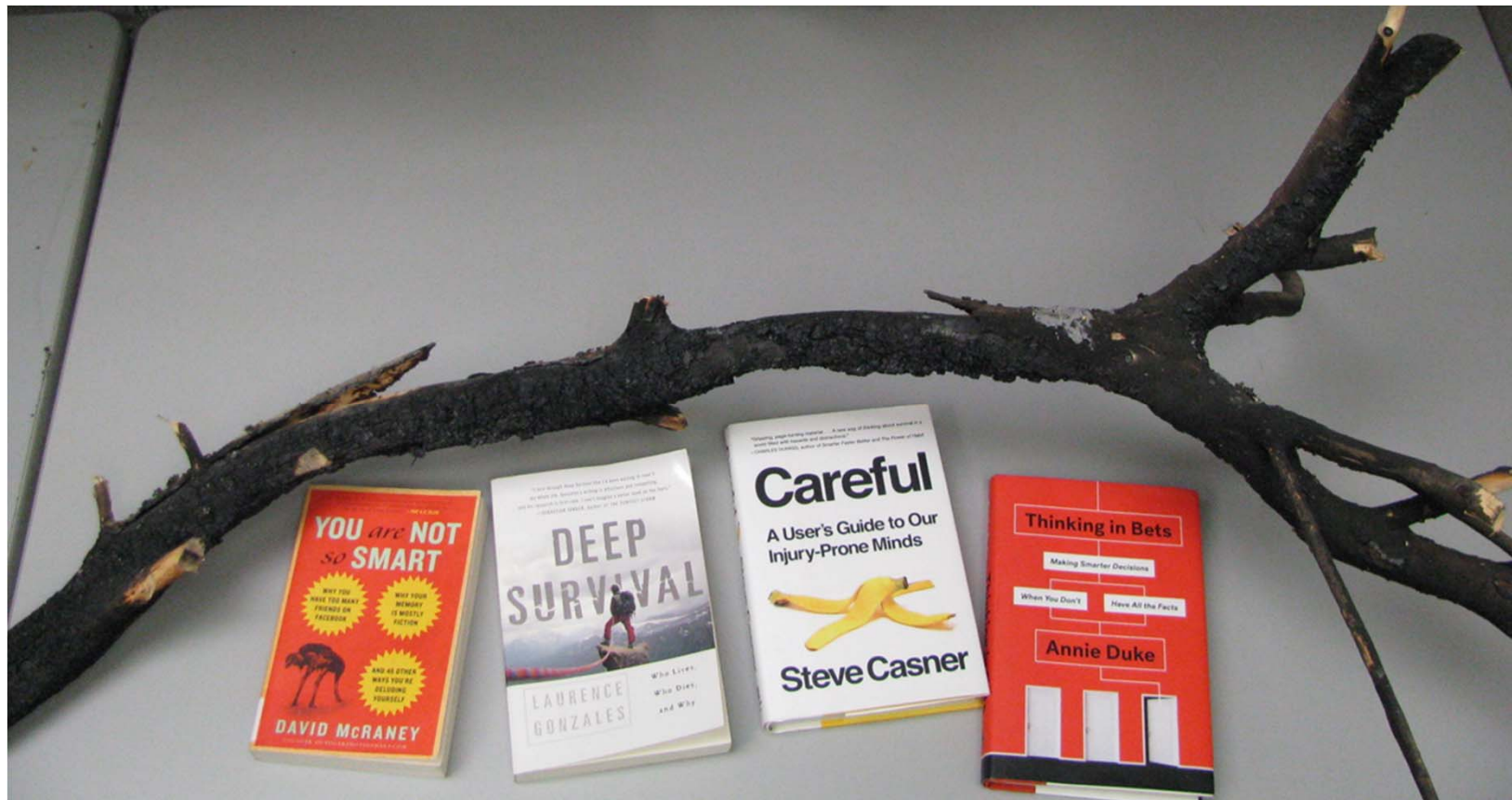
DISCLAIMER

What I'm Not:

- I'm not a Scientist
- I'm not a Researcher
- I'm not even that smart

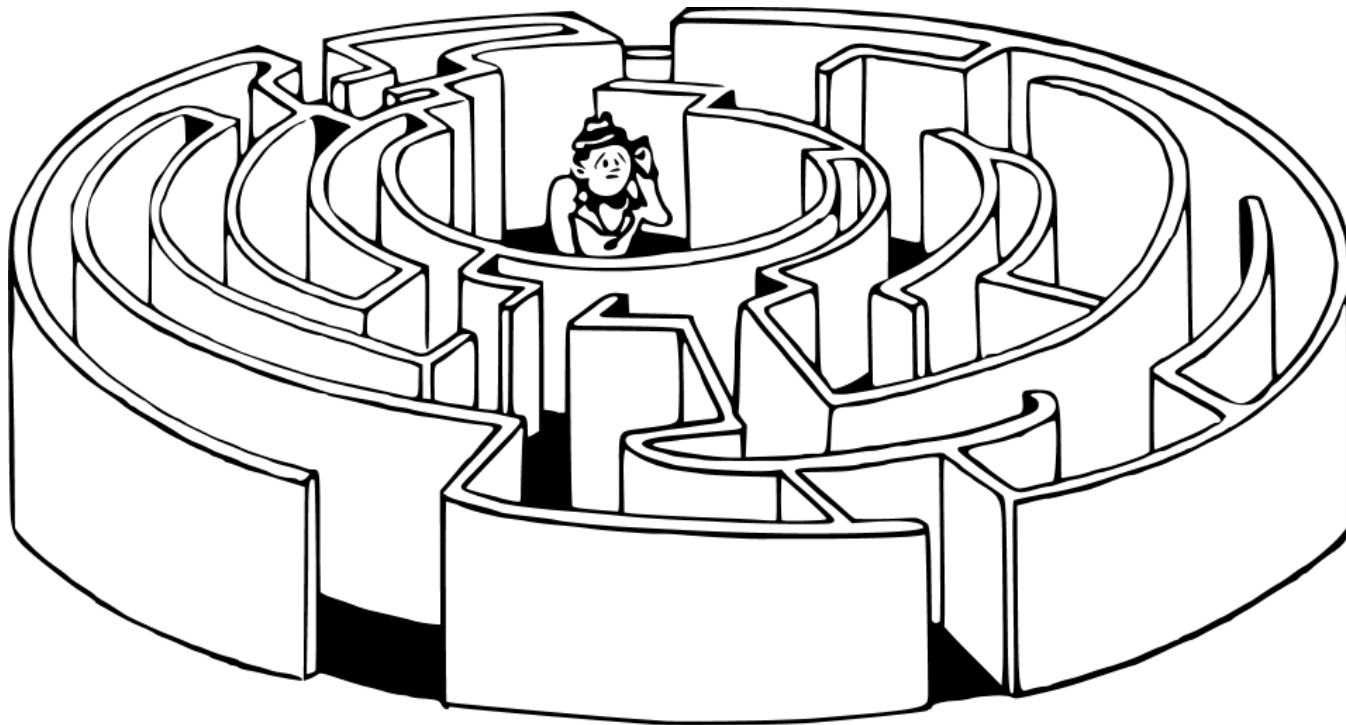
What I Am:

- I'm just a guy that likes to read books



DEAD END JOB

“That last turn put him at a
‘Dead’ end”
(or was it the first turn??)



(INSERT YOUR NAME HERE) IS AMAZING!

Obstacles to backing out of the maze:

- Ego
- Insecurities
- Overestimate our abilities
- Upbringing - “It’s a family tradition”

Motivated Reasoning:

(Duke, 2018)

- Hear it
- Believe it
- If at all, possibly vet the information for accuracy at some point in the future

PAY ATTENTION NOW!



“DRIVING WHILE BLIND”

- **Inattention Blindness** (*McRaney, 2011*)
- **Change Blindness** (*Casner, 2017; McRaney, 2011*)
- **Attention Hangover – Working Memory – 27 Seconds** (*Casner, 2017*)

ABILITIES AND RISKS



DO WE HAVE ALL THE INFO?

Risks

- We don't understand risks – Where do we get our info? *(Casner, 2017)*
- Unique Invulnerability
“It won't happen to me”
(Casner, 2017)
- The Affect Heuristic – emotions, not logic tend to decide what is risky or rewarding *(McRaney, 2011)*

“We're the Best!!”

- The Dunning-Kruger Effect – we're lousy at estimating our own competence
(McRaney, 2011)
- Self Serving Bias – we excuse our failures and believe we are more skilled than we are
(McRaney, 2011)

EMERGENCIES!



EMERGENCIES!

“When the proverbial stuff hits the fan, people don’t rise to the occasion, they sink to the lowest level of their training” – wise Navy Chief Petty Officer

Normalcy Bias

(McRaney, 2011)

- **Cognition**
- **Perception**
- **Comprehension**
- **Decision**
- **Implementation**
- ***Movement!***

Thinking Ahead

- **How could this go wrong?**
- **Should I really do this?**
- **What can I do to prevent this from going wrong?**
- **What would I do if it did go wrong?**

REFERENCES

- Casner, S. (2017). *Careful: a User's Guide to Our Injury Prone Minds*. New York, NY: Penguin Random House LLC.
- Duke, A. (2018). *Thinking in Bets*. New York, NY: Penguin Random House LLC.
- Gonzales, L. (2003). *Deep Survival*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company.
- McRaney, D. (2011). *You Are Not So Smart*. New York, NY: Penguin Group.



BONUS POINTS: WHERE IS THIS R.O.W.??

DISCUSSION??

