



OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD!

ExecuCoach360 Newsletter

“Finding Your Direction is Only the Beginning”

CAUTION – “Watch your step”

Climbing the Corporate Ladder may be Hazardous to your Professional Career

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Recently, my husband was on the top of a 12’ step-ladder installing a fixture. I was slightly nervous since he was standing three steps away from the top of the ladder with no structure to support him. As I watched him on top of the step-ladder, horrific images flashed through my mind; what if he falls, slips, misses a step, or loses his balance! Once he descended from the ladder and reached solid ground, my anxiety subsided.

When I went back into my office, I began to see a correlation between the potential dangers an individual may encounter while climbing a step-ladder and an individual aspiring to rise to the top of a different ladder, the corporate ladder. There exists a plethora of articles and books that offer guidance on what it takes to climb the corporate ladder. A Google search on the subject alone reveals thousands of motivating “*how to*” steps that center on the topic of climbing the corporate ladder; what to do when you get to the top, and how climbing the ladder meets an individual’s goals as it relates to his or her professional career.

Being focused, patient, diligent, knowledgeable, tenacious and displaying a willingness to work hard are just a few principles that are needed to reach the top of the corporate ladder, and the rewards can be substantial.

However, being mindful of the consequences of climbing the ladder too quickly without a solid plan can be detrimental to one’s career, you can lose focus and get distracted (Siang, 2006).

Listed below are a few helpful tips to successfully climb the corporate ladder without injuring your path towards your ultimate career goals:

- Be authentic and passionate and about your work
- Step outside of your comfort zone and choose projects that will challenge you
- Show interest and support the organization’s initiatives, goals and objectives
- Never burn bridges, you never know when you may have to cross that bridge again

Navigating the corporate environment including career advancement opportunities is much like ascending a tall step ladder. It is important to have a strong foundation and to carefully watch every step you make. Just as my husband kept his feet firmly on the step of the 12’ ladder; aspiring leaders and executives must do the same on the corporate playing field.

Siang, L.U. (2006). *Moving up the corporate ladder and avoiding pitfalls.*

Thought Provoking Question:

What would you do differently if you missed a step on the way up the corporate ladder?

Thought of the Month

“You cannot climb the ladder of success dressed in the costume of failure”

Zig Ziglar

Did you know?

That this newsletter has 502 words and should take 5 minutes or less to read? A small price for knowledge!

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