



Five Tips to FIRE UP Your Career and Shift into Overdrive!

There are two approaches you can take when it comes to your career: stick or shift.

Many of you will choose to stick – that is – you will keep your head down and simply do what is required of you each day. Your goal? To just get by and go home knowing you did what you had to do – nothing more, nothing less. Your reward? You'll earn a paycheck, some benefits, and perhaps (on the surface) an easier path to travel. But I'll hazard with that, a less certain career path and increased job uncertainty.

However, a small percentage of you will choose to shift – that is – you will choose to take those actions necessary to accelerate your personal and professional development. This, in turn, will provide the momentum that you will need to be nimble and quick, so that you can take advantage of new opportunities and produce results that will propel your company – and your career – to success. Your reward? You will become indispensable, earn more money, get more recognition, receive more promotional opportunities and, yes, have more fun. Isn't that a great way to safeguard your job and your career?

Here are five tips you use today fire up YOUR career and shift into overdrive.

TIP #1: Set Your Direction by Creating a Plan

You've got to know what to focus on, and it's up to you to set the direction in terms of where you want your career to go. I'm a big fan of delegating but this is ONE task that you absolutely can NOT delegate because in today's career environment, everyone is busy, and they have their own career to manage. To be successful in business and in life you must know where you are RIGHT NOW and where you want to go TODAY, TOMORROW, NEXT WEEK, NEXT MONTH, NEXT YEAR, and have a plan of action to get there.

TIP #2: Take Small Steps to Build Quick Momentum

Like most of you, I find it easy to get caught up in the day-to-day activities of work and life, the nitty-gritty, the minutiae, the politics, the gossip, and all of the other trivia that takes place in our offices. As a result, it becomes easy to lose sight of the big picture, right? So, what do you need to do to accomplish your goals? Carve out time EVERY day to take one small positive action to move your goals forward. Develop a work list. Make a phone call. Conduct research. Read an article. Schedule a meeting. Do just ONE THING each day and you will likely be amazed at how quickly your momentum will shift you forward.

TIP #3: Rev Up for Success through Preparation and Practice

When a race car driver gets ready for the big race, it's not about just being able to drive without crashing. It's also having the mental stamina and focus necessary to fully engage in the moment, take the necessary actions and embrace risks to cross the finish line, and potentially win the race. This doesn't happen just by getting behind the wheel and is rarely due to luck. For some it takes months, sometimes years, of preparation and practice. What are you doing to rev up your career? What or who can help you by providing tools and resources you need? What action can you take right now to position you for future success within your organization?

TIP #4: Do Something Different to Accelerate Beyond Expectations

If you want to accelerate your career beyond your wildest expectations then you are likely going to have to do something dramatically different from what you are doing today. Sometimes that means that you have to take a leap of faith in yourself and create, develop or implement something completely new or different. That way your results can clearly speak for themselves. And, don't leave the results to chance or luck. Make it a conscious choice to do something dramatically different then back it with your hard work and laser clear focus. Make the commitment to stretch and grow as a business professional. Then watch your successes pile up as you begin to accelerate your career and your dreams unfold.

TIP #5: Be Willing to Shift Gears to Get Unstuck

To survive in business and in life you need to know when to shift gears. Sometimes we get on a certain path or track and we tool along at the same speed just enjoying the ride. But then our needs change, customer needs change, organizational needs change, and all of a sudden what we've done before no longer helps us be successful in achieving our goals. Yet, we continue along the same path at the same speed doing the same things all the while hoping for different results. Someone once said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results. Don't wait for someone to come looking for you with a strait jacket. Instead, remember to shift gears now to get yourself unstuck and moving forward.

When push comes to shove, will you choose to stick or shift when it comes to your career? I, for one, am hoping you'll shift.