

Even in a tough economy, employees can weather the storm

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With the economy showing signs of faltering, many employees are questioning their job security.

If a company falters, and employee cuts are required, employees can position themselves for a swifter rebound by networking, approaching their job search professionally and being prepared to position their skills and experience to new employers.

Be a good employee. Employees who are mindful of deadlines, deliver quality work and have a good attitude are valued and relied upon the most. Employers value workers who exhibit timeliness, accountability and a focus on company business. While all personality types are needed, employees with a positive influence on their environment tend to stay around longer.

Make the boss look good. Good employees communicate often with their superior and send regular status updates. Managers hate surprises, so all news should be communicated in a timely manner. Open lines of communication allow managers to send updates up the ladder and make the employee a valuable resource.

Value relationships. Professionals who show respect to the people they meet along the way develop relationships that can be called upon in the future. A network is built every day — not just during the job hunt. Part of developing good working relationships involves giving credit where it is due, both up and down the line. Acknowledging and empowering team members are two techniques not soon forgotten.

Increase job value. Difficult economic times provide an increased need for employees to become strategic and increase their value within their current company while preparing for the future.

Improve the bottom line. Employees who are a source of revenue are an indispensable company asset, especially in uncertain times. Those who think strategically to increase profitability as well as execute tactics are a complete package and ensure

their place in a changing organization.

Keep relevant. People who stay abreast of marketplace trends and industry news are more prepared to grow and change within their current job or transition to a new one. Attending regular training sessions helps maintain current job skills and adaptability in the industry.

Get involved. Employees who participate on internal committees or projects have an opportunity to develop a professional network while acquiring new skills. Fostering relationships with other departments can lead to new opportunities. Further, participating in an industry-related association outside the office can provide a great opportunity to grow a network while supporting a good cause.

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