**Safety Leadership Checklist: Do You Have What It Takes?**

Safety leadership isn’t a formula and it doesn’t always come with a fancy job title. It’s a mindset and a skill set that is essential for those who make careers out of protecting others on the job. How do you know if you have what it takes? Use this checklist.

**The courage to question the way things have always been done.**

If you believe your organization’s systems, procedures or cultural norms are inhibiting safety, you must be brave and speak up. Lives may depend on it.

**The ability to communicate clearly in different environments.**

Safety leadership puts you in conversation with front-line workers, executives, peers and others who are listening for different information. Choose your words wisely.

**A sincere interest in connecting with people and listening to what they say.**

It isn’t enough to nod along during toolbox talks, incident investigations and meetings just to speed things up. People can tell when leaders really care.

**A relentless desire to learn, explore and find solutions to problems.**

Education isn’t over when you remove your cap and gown or finish your vocational training. Learning about safety is a critical and lifelong endeavor.

**The willingness to see and be seen, in an effort to make safety visible.**

Safety doesn’t happen on the sidelines. Effective leaders know when it’s time to leave the office and relate to their teams on a human level.

**The financial skills to budget, negotiate and advocate for better safety outcomes.**

Your organization should invest resources in ways that align with values and objectives. Help them understand why safety must be part of the equation.

**Safety as a personal value, deeply rooted in your sense of who you are.**

Safety is a calling, not a 9-to-5 job. When passion is the reason you show up every day, you are better positioned to do great work and avoid burnout.

**A technical knowledge of key safety concepts, informed by standards and laws.**

Understanding safety regulations is important, but it’s also the bare minimum. Stay on top of your game with consensus standards and best practices.

**An active investment in communities and relationships that help you succeed.**

Relying on others isn’t a sign of weakness — it’s a strength. Share what you know, ask what you don’t know and remove barriers to community building.

**The focus to manage distractions, complete tasks and achieve your goals.**

We live in distracting times. Do you know how to turn off push notifications, approach work with mindfulness and accomplish what matters most?

**Learn More**

Want to find community, technical knowledge and focus in a world full of distractions?

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**safetyfocus.assp.org**