



Leadership Suggestion From The Back Seat #4: Leadership is not a Privilege, it's a Responsibility

Sometimes it seems that the people who promote to leadership positions see it as a privilege (“yay! Now I only have to give commands in the station and talk on the radio at incidents) versus a very big responsibility. Attaining a leadership position should not mean that you are now free to do less of the hard work--it means that you've now taken on even more responsibility for the crew and our success. There's nothing that drives us back seaters more bananas than seeing our Captain, clean and dry, on the sidelines, chit chatting with the chiefs, while we're sifting through wet, sooty, heavy post-fire wreckage or carrying an extra large sick or injured person to a gurney, etc. The Captains that hide behind their badge and their “privilege” when the going gets tough will never truly be a well respected leader.

Leadership Lesson from the Back Seat: A leader is at their best when they see their role as being an even bigger responsibility, in terms of the success of their team, their customers, and their organization, versus the privilege of being “in charge”. When you leave your privilege behind, consistently check with the crew to see if we have all of the resources we need, and even roll up your sleeves and get down and dirty with us when we need you the most, you will gain even more respect and loyalty from the team.

XO, Robyn



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