

The rising tide lifts all boats, sometimes

By Wayne Bailey

Just recently, I was river boating down the Danube River that ran through Budapest. The ship's length was 110 metres, its width 11,4 metres with a load draft of 1,6 metres and a crew of approximately 35 men/women and 150 passengers. We were constantly going through river locks.

As we motored down the river, we would pull into a lock with concrete sides and metal gates front and back. Once inside, both gates locked in place, the gate would then open slightly in front, allowing the water to rush out down river to the new lower level so to equalise and allowing us to continue our trip down river. When we returned back up the river, the reverse happened and then that's when it hit me.

We were not the only boat in the lock. There were four other boats our size in the lock. As the boats were lifted to the new water level, water was forcing the boats upwards to the river level, sometimes three times the height of the boat itself. The water lifted our boats with the same effort it lifted the other three boats. Much like the old saying,

"The rising tide lifts all boats." What can we learn from this?

The effort to raise one boat versus four boats is the same. When everything is going well in your department, everyone is getting along, a lot of this has to do with leadership over the entire department, engine, rescue, EMS and or ladder company. Your smile, being positive, being upbeat lifts everyone, just like the ships in the lock, not just one person.

The knowledge and attitude you bring to work every day should be uplifting to everyone or at least the ones that want to be lifted. In the quote, "The rising tide lifts all boats" should read, "The rising tide lifts all boats and there will be ones left on dry land" and that's okay. Some will come along and some will not.

When you are teaching someone new knowledge, it takes as much effort to teach one as it does to teach 10. Whenever the opportunity shows itself, make teaching opportunities available to others in a classroom, entire engine company or by using online



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platforms such as Facebook Live and zoom to other stations. Work smart, not hard.

In closing, study the picture with this article. All tides do raise all ships; however, make sure you're in a safe location when you go to low tide. Don't isolate yourself or neglect to take directions otherwise you will find yourself stranded on dry land. ⚠️



LEADERSHIP IS NOT A TITLE.
IT IS A BEHAVIOR.
LIVE IT.

-ROBIN SHARMA