



THE BLUE FAMILY TREE

Newsletter article January, 2024

We have a tendency to fail and allow ourselves to bask in it.

What I mean is we sit with our failure and wait for a pre-determined reset. In the case of new year's resolutions, we typically fail in seven days and then wait 358 days before trying again. We just accept our failure, and compound it for the next 11 months and three weeks before we get back on the proverbial horse and give it another go. With this kind of habit, nothing will ever change. Nothing will ever improve. We will remain the same person, forever defined by our failures and only dreaming of success.

We have to hold a higher standard for ourselves, and for those around us. There is a tremendous amount of good which comes from failing, the best of which is an opportunity to try again, so long as we don't wait too long. So what is the appropriate amount of time to wait? This depends on the task, and maybe the size of the failure. Some failures may require a meeting and formal plans to reevaluate and create a new strategy. An example may be a construction company that poured improperly mixed concrete. Other failures may require a specific time to try again because moving parts need to be aligned. Perhaps a surfer who fell from his board and needs to wait for the next wave to try again. But some failures only require a meal break or a nights sleep. A fresh breathe, a new outlook, and a positive mindset can be the best attributes before taking another chance at it. For most of our problems in this life, a sunrises all it takes to begin the challenge again and find the success you've been searching for, and sometimes there is not even a need to wait a day.

Don't tie yourself down to your mistakes by setting an arbitrary calendar day for your do-over. Instead liberate yourself by trying again and again until you get it right. In the case of officer survival and career growth, sitting in failure breeds life threatening habits. Allowing those around you to sit in failure may haunt you forever when you look at the name of your brother or sister on a plaque in your agency's front lobby and you think to yourself, 'I saw this coming, and I did nothing to pull them from their slump. I did nothing to reach them. I did nothing to improve myself and nothing to show them a better way.'

We ended 2023 with a remarkably low LODD number. Currently the year stands at 124, a number unbeaten since 1959. Some LODD statistics tend to be reported a couple months behind, so the number may rise a bit still. Be sure to tune in to the article next month as we study what happened in 2023 in comparison to the decades before.

Yes, there is reason to rejoice! But there is also reason to mourn. We can do better. We can do better for our brothers and sisters. We can do better for our families. We can do better for our communities. Officer survival is everyone's job. My survival, your survival, the next shift's survival. It does not stop with you. When we focus on our jobs and invest in each other, and when we are not afraid to correct each other and take criticism ourselves, then we will have a truly great impact. We will save police lives, and improve service to our communities. It's a win for all stake holders. The key is getting up the tomorrow and trying again, even if we dropped the ball today.

[READ MORE ARTICLES](#)

[HOME](#)