

## CONNIE'S CAREER CORNER

**“I am hearing rumors that my job is ending.”**

**Tip for the day:** Prepare yourself for the unexpected and it becomes the expected.

**Q: Dear Connie: I have heard rumors that my company will be laying off a lot of people. I am concerned that I will lose my job. How can I find out if these rumors are true, and if they are true, what should I do?**

**A: Dear Wondering:** Many people find themselves in the same position as you. You want to know if the rumors are true and if you are going to lose your job. Before you panic, try to get all the facts.

Rumors are called rumors because they may or may not be true. Every workplace is full of all kinds of rumors such as the company is closing to your boss is leaving. From experience, we know two things about rumors. One is that rumors usually bear some truth. Secondly, you know that some rumors turn out to be false.

Your main goal is not to overreact to a rumor. When one person tells a rumor to another person, it is common for the second person to add a little more of his own interpretation. This is why rumors can start with a grain of truth and end up blown way out of proportion.

One step you might take is to ask your human resource representative if there is any truth to the rumor that a big layoff is coming. You may be able to get some information this way. But often the Human Resource Department employees are instructed not to share details of a layoff until the company is ready to make the information public. The company does not want workers quitting prematurely and affecting the daily operations of the company before it is ready to downsize.

Keep your eyes and ears open for indications of an upcoming layoff. See if you notice the following:

- sudden changes in management
- decrease in production or sells
- a history of downsizing
- a recent company buyout
- employees in the Human Resource Department leaving

The best thing you can do for yourself is to get your resume up to date. Start researching jobs that are available for someone with your skill set. Begin renewing your contacts since networking is a valuable asset when job searching. Contact peers who have left your current employer and ask how they like their present employer.

Consider your family finances and start saving some of your current income in case you find yourself unemployed. It is common for employees facing a layoff to be in a state of denial that this could happen to them. Avoid letting these feelings prevent you from planning for the worse case scenario. By having a plan, you will be able to avoid problems that may occur if you have not made proper preparation for a job loss.

Remember, you are a good employee for your present employer and you will be a good employee for you next employer as well. Stay confident and you can be prepared for whatever may come your way in the future.