Survival Skills for Crazy Busy Sales Leaders

A Strategy for Professional Success and Personal Satisfaction



I had just landed in **Chicago at O'Hare** International Airport...



When we think we are multitasking, our brains are actually moving from one thing to the next, and our performance degrades for each new task we add by 40%. Multitasking gives us a neurological high so we think we are doing better and better, when actually we are doing worse and worse.

> Sherry Turkle, MIT Professor Reclaiming Conversation



Frame Each Day with These Zones

Green Zone: GO **Yellow Zone: CAUTION Red Zone: STOP**

Green Zone: GO

- 1. What are the **most important responsibilities** of your sales leadership role?
- 2. What delivers the greatest, long-term revenue results for your team?
- 3. What 2–3 hour block of time can you schedule *every day* for **focused**, undistracted investment in these activities?

Execute on Your Top Priorities

"If you give me a lever and a place to stand, I can move the world."

Archimedes



Concentration—that is, the courage to impose what really matters most and comes first—is the executive's only hope of mastering time and events instead of being their whipping boy.

Peter Drucker *The Effective Executive*

Yellow Zone: CAUTION

1. Batch your digital communication and process it in a crisp, concise, and professional manner at **2-3 set times of the day**.

Manage Your Email, Chat, Texts, and Meetings



This Is How We Live Our Life



This Is How To Live Our Life

Yellow Zone: CAUTION

- 1. Batch your digital communication and process it in a crisp, concise, and professional manner at **2-3 set times of the day**.
- 2. Establish a reliable communication medium for emergencies (only).
- 3. Work with the members of your leadership team to **change the meeting culture** at your company.

Manage Your Email, Chat, Texts, and Meetings



John Anner, CEO Dream Corps

- Meetings are just 45 minutes long (or shorter).
- Meetings start on time and end on time.
- Every meeting has an agenda. No agenda, no meeting.
- No one goes to a meeting who doesn't need to be at that meeting.
- At the beginning of a meeting, the leader spells out the goals for the meeting *and sticks to them*.
- At the end of the meeting, participants go back through the agenda to review what needs to get done before the next meeting.

"It gives me at least ten extra hours a week."

Red Zone: STOP

Use Deadlines to Drive Performance



Red Zone: STOP

- 1. Set a **cut off time for your work** and sprint to the finish line each day.
- 2. Set a **cut off time for your weekends** and sprint to the finish line each week.

Use Deadlines to Drive Performance

Weekends are what stand between you and smoldering burnout. Success in a competitive world requires hitting Monday refreshed and ready to go. The only way to do that is to create weekends that rejuvenate you rather than exhaust you.

Laura Vanderkam

What the Most Successful People Do on the Weekend

Red Zone: STOP

- 1. Set a **cut off time for your work** and sprint to the finish line each day.
- 2. Set a **cut off time for your weekends** and sprint to the finish line each week.
- 3. Take the long view for your career (and your life) and keep your **inner resources and personal relationships** healthy and strong.

Use Deadlines to Drive Performance



The Sinkhole Syndrome

When leadership responsibilities above the surface of your life expand without replenishing the resources below the surface of your life.

How Do You Make the Zone Strategy Work? Set a 30-minute meeting with yourself every week.

Review the past week. *What went well? What didn't?* Plan this week.

Schedule your **Green Zone** time blocks and list your **Green Zone** activities.

Schedule **Red Zone** deadlines for workdays and the weekend.

Cancel unnecessary meetings and prepare for the necessary ones. Process digital communication quickly and efficiently.

Adjust each day as issues arise. Rinse and repeat every week.

Next Steps?

Dedicated Web Page:

https://billzipp.com/sovos_sales_leadership/

Follow-Up Exercise:

https://forms.gle/fwzBXkRaXqzss9n67

YouTube Video Series:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI7YoJdYz HngaC8tM_yUmSFLvTGz3zu1e







