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Now that you clinging to the Northern Hemisphere are rested

By Paperitalo Staff

It is time to go back to work. Summer holidays are nearly over. The children are back in school, budget planning season is upon us, and there is a push ahead to make the yearly goals, whatever they may be (time to make that hockey-stick looking revenue graph into reality—the steep slope part is here).

So how is your attitude?

Are you just going through the motions, or are you truly refreshed and ready to tackle your responsibilities with renewed energy and ideas? Sometimes just a little revision in the schedule is all we need to see things in a new light and to find a new perspective. Some suggestions:

1. Park in a different spot and take a different path from your new parking space to your workspace.
2. Throw something away. There is no doubt some pile of junk in your workspace that you keep thinking will be valuable in the future and the future when it is needed has not come. Get rid of it.
3. Change your routine. If you are in a mill and required to go to the production meeting, you probably cannot change much before the meeting, but I'll bet you have been doing the same things after the meeting by rote for years. Plan on doing some of them in the afternoon and pull some formerly afternoon tasks into the morning.
4. Stop doing something. There are a number of things you do every day that have no consequence for anything that goes on in your work place, your career or your personal life. You have just gotten into the habit of doing them without thinking. Stop them now and replace them with something that matters.
5. Throw some more things out. Take one desk drawer a week and thoroughly empty it. Throw

away anything you have not used in the last six months. Do this every week until you have been through not only every drawer in your desk, but every file cabinet, shelf and other source of collections in your office or workspace. And only throw away the things you know for sure you have not used in the last six months. If a file cabinet completely empties up in the process, get rid of the file cabinet.

6. Subscribe to and read a different magazine about your industry, profession or career.

7. Clean up your computer files, favorites and so forth. Use the six month rule mentioned above. Change your background image, screen saver, and overall color theme.

8. If you are a manager of an area larger than your own workspace, apply all the above to your entire area.

I guarantee that if you follow the above, by October 1, you will feel like you have a new job. You will have a new spring in your step.

And, of course, we can't leave you without talking about safety. Freshen your safety meetings. Pick one safety problem a week and look for it everywhere you roam in your facility.

Be safe and we will talk next week. ##