Should Leaders Exercise Caution During Crisis?

**A leader takes people where they want to go.**

**A great leader takes people where they don’t necessarily want to go but ought to be**

~Rosalynn Carter, Former First Lady

The real test of leadership doesn’t occur when everything is going well. Rather, it’s in times of crisis when you get to see how much of a leader you are. Preparing for situations like this can sometimes mean the difference between success and failure.

With that said, below are 6 ways to do this.

1. **Project Confidence**
   Team members tend to get nervous when things start going wrong. This is something you can notice in the way they talk and perform their day-to-day tasks. One of the biggest reasons for this is fear.

   If you project fear as well, that unease will make it even more difficult for everyone in your team to do well. Therefore, it’s your job to look like you are the master of the situation even if you don’t feel that way. Know how to stay calm and it’ll become easier for everyone else to contribute to the recovery process.

2. **Exercise Caution**
   Even though you, the team and the organization are facing a crisis, it doesn’t mean you and your team don’t have to be cautious about your work. The more you panic and ignore the work you would normally pay attention to; the more things will go out of control.

   With that said, it’s your job to exercise caution even when there is crisis. It’s all about the alertness of mind and your leadership skills. Stay calm and observe the operations as if there wasn’t a crisis.

3. **Be There for Your Team**
   Sometimes, situations like this can be extremely tough for some of your team members. Work can start affecting their personal life and things may become even tougher.

   It’s your job to spot employees who are having a hard time and support them as much as you can. Make sure everyone in team knows they can turn to you with absolutely anything and show them you are willing to help.
4. Be Decisive
To be a good leader, you have to be able to make decisions on the fly. In fact, it’s your job to be ready to make even the hardest decisions in a timely fashion. That’s one of the best ways to show your team that you’re not afraid of taking action.
Also, adapt your decisions to the organizations current needs this will inspire employees to take the same approach.

5. Stay in Control
In times of crisis, your work environment can out of control.
When things like that happen, it’s imperative for you to get a better understanding of the situation and show the team everything’s under control.

Be cautious in making hasty decisions during crisis but do not let that caution turn to your being paralyzed from making a decision.