



## Decrease Your Odds of Getting Laid Off

Nearly two million U.S. jobs have been lost in the past year, and as the country slides deeper into a recession, more hefty layoffs are likely. That's the word from Stephen Viscusi, career headhunter and author of *Bulletproof Your Job*. He says in an economy such as our current one, even doing your job well is no guarantee of job security. Many skilled, hard-working employees will find themselves out of work. So, here's how to decrease YOUR odds of getting laid off, courtesy of Viscusi and *The Bottom Line Personal*.

- **Be “low maintenance.”** You'll be one of the first out the door if your boss considers you a complainer – or fields complaints about you from other employees. Viscusi says being low maintenance means accepting all assignments that come your way - without moaning, not asking for special treatment, learning to endure minor office annoyances – like thin walls or a testy microwave, and striving to get along well with your colleagues.
- **Stay upbeat.** Sarcastic humor is common when layoffs loom, but you don't want to join in. Speak with optimism about the company's future, especially when the boss is around. It sends a message that you want to be part of that future.
- **Volunteer to take on tasks that your boss dislikes.** Viscusi says this might mean managing a headache project – like training new employees. However, if you're in charge of the tasks the boss dreads, she won't be able to let you go without worrying that *she'll* have to assume these responsibilities again. That's powerful motivation to keep you around.
- **DON'T let your boss catch you not working!** Employees who are seen as slackers are usually among the first to go. So, don't take long lunches, don't get caught shopping online, get off Facebook, stop playing Mine Sweeper, and put your cell phone away. If you don't, you're telling your boss that you don't value the company's time, and if that's the case, you can kiss your job goodbye.