

## FINDING STRENGTH AFTER ADVERSITY

*"Adversity often activates a strength we did not know we had."*

—Joan Walsh Anglund

*Loss, tragedy and crisis can become meaningful instruments for change, activating a strength many do not know they possess. First by giving the person something to focus on to get them through the tragedy and then by giving him or her a purpose to keep going. For many it is a way of turning the negative emotions and feelings into something positive—a way of finding or making some meaning out of the loss.*

*Survivors must decide how the adversity will affect and what role the loss will play in their lives—will the tragedy become a powerful disabling force, or a powerful motivator. Some losses are so devastating and tragic they can result in grieving for a lifetime. Instead of allowing the grief to paralyze them, survivors learn how to adjust and go forward. The loss or significant change becomes part of the new life story as survivors recognize that life goes on and they keep living.*

*Survivors of loss can become thrivers by looking for or creating opportunities in the apparent adversity. A thriver is able to take difficulties and grow in new directions, develop personally and professionally and evolve after facing a loss, trauma or tragedy. Those who survive loss frequently become stronger, more sensitive, more aware and more understanding of the suffering of others. Thrivers are able to rise above their own pain and reach out to share their insights or stories to lessen the grief of others. They learn how to turn adversity into something positive, an enabling force.*

—source: [www.about.com](http://www.about.com)—  
Hope After Adversity

## VALCO COMMITTED TO REBUILDING AFTER FIRE

While putting together this month's newsletter, I never imagined that I would be writing an open letter to our associates, customers, suppliers, and friends of Valco Industries about our survival and future. But a devastating fire that took place in the morning hours of February 9th has certainly changed life at Valco as we knew it. The fire started in our compressor room and even with the gallant efforts of our associates, the fire quickly burnt out of control. Certainly the best thing that happened is that there were no injuries and no loss of life. Valco has certainly sustained a major loss or losses in terms of a facility, equipment, inventory, and records. As bad as those losses are they can and will be replaced. I know that a human life cannot and so I quickly realized that we as a company and as a family were indeed lucky that today we can say that we remain a family that is intact and ready to move forward.

February 9th was like riding a roller coaster, with lots of lows and highs as the day progressed and we were able to quickly evaluate just how much had been lost. Each of us watched the building burn and I'm sure we all had a variety of emotions and fears as to what the future would now hold for Valco and each team/family member. It is certainly going to be a painful and costly time for Valco, but I am committed to rebuilding, to keeping our great team intact, and to being able to service our customers with no disruption to their business. I know that by all of us working together we can and will build a better and brighter future.

*Certainly the high point was the tremendous outpouring of support, wishes, prayers, and people continuing to ask "what can we do, or just tell us what you need or want."*

Certainly the high point that day and the following days was the tremendous outpouring of support, wishes, prayers, and people continuing to ask "what can we do, or just tell us what you need or want." This support came from our associates, from our suppliers, from community people and most importantly from our customers. It was unbelievable to me the number of customers who either came to Valco or personally called to offer their support, to tell me they are here for us in our time of need, who thanked us for being a great supplier for so many years, and to let us know they were sticking with us. This is what relationship building and trust can and does mean. The support of all of our associates has been outstanding and heartwarming and just reinforced what I already knew and that was that we have the greatest team of people working at Valco. We have people who care for each other, who care about their company, and who care about the people who keep us in business, our customers. Smiles, as painful as it was to smile, meant a great deal and I know it would have been a lot easier to cry, but smiling certainly makes it better. These things made a very bleak day much brighter and convinced me that we are going to be here for the long haul.

We are going to rebuild, we are going to remain a viable and growing company and we are going to keep our team intact. Our associates have always been here for me, have always done whatever it takes to make it happen, and remain committed to the future. Today I am here for you and together we will make it.

A special thanks to Andy Bell and the people at Consolidated Insurance for being so on top of things, for being so supportive and for being sure we are taken care of. Thanks to Kapp Construction for responding so quickly to our call of help and for securing the building and for working in such lousy weather conditions. Thanks to Imperial Express for their help in moving material and product with no questions asked and for disrupting their schedules to service us. Thanks to Benjamin Steel and Sheehan Brothers for providing food and nourishment to all of us on the day of the fire and being sure we remained strong. Thanks to CFA for their help and support in making sure our computers were saved where possible and doing what they could to get as operational as quickly as possible. Thanks for Don Lynam and Home City for their unwavering support. Thanks to you, our customers, who volunteered your support and for remaining supportive as we work our way through these tough times. You are why we exist. Thanks to each and every associate for remaining a part of the Team! I look forward to working with each of you today, tomorrow, and throughout the year. **Together we will make it happen!**

—Eddie Leventhal, President/Owner

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