



Is Your Business a Minefield?

Almost every business has common problems and neglected issues that can sit just below the surface and can explode into a critical issue at any point, like hidden landmines.

Every year businesses of all sizes are damaged by their hidden landmines. This can happen because the mines have not been 'defused' and cause further instability due to their ongoing presence, or they are mishandled and explode causing huge amounts of damage.



- What are the landmines within your business?
- Are there no-go areas or subjects that are never tackled?
- Do you pretend that they're not there and try to carry on?

Common Landmines are:

- Negative relationships between colleagues.
- Subjects that are off-limits.
- Issues that are never tackled or resolved.
- Essential tasks that are always avoided.
- Risks that are ignored.
- Issues that cause tension within the business.



There is no place for any of these in a business if you really want it to succeed.

Can You Live with Landmines?

Landmines may see you restricted to moving in the narrow parts of 'safe ground' and hope that you don't disturb them while trying to go about your daily business.

This can become a habit, meaning that it is more likely that the landmines will increase in number over time, restricting you to ever narrower areas of safe ground.

Are you happy to live with them and just skirt around them?



Financial cost of living with landmines

Landmines cause you to take detours that would be unnecessary if you were free to take the most direct route.

Detours normally mean wasted time and money for a business.

Compromises are made that would not be necessary otherwise and less effective solutions used.

It's unlikely that a landmine goes off without causing any damage. What will your landmines cost when they explode?

Increasing Instability.

Any existing problem causes more instability the longer that it is left and causes you to make decisions based on avoiding the problem, rather than working towards the result that you want. The stress of living with this constant threat affects the morale of everyone affected and can lead to deepening tensions between colleagues.

Restricting Choice and Performance

Each problem restricts what you can do, by getting in the way and limiting your ability to make the best decision for the business and to operate at your best.

Landmines by their very nature are traps that are waiting to be triggered and inevitably cause collateral damage when they do go off. You cannot afford to ignore them.

Collateral Damage

Every now and then someone will blunder into the minefield and set one off. This can be as simple as saying the wrong thing because they are not aware of the hidden landmines.

A conscientious employee may decide to take on a neglected task, unaware that it is a source of ongoing tension or has become more complicated due to being neglected..

A neglected task may become urgent due to external deadlines and result in penalties that pose a real threat to the survival of the business.



In each scenario, everyone in the business suffers. Some casualties may have to leave the business. The business may not survive, creating even more victims. The innocent suffer through no fault of their own.

Who will your landmines hurt?

Clear the way so that your business can achieve its potential

I have spent my career tackling these types of issues for companies of all sizes and know from my experience that landmines need to be defused and cleared if you want to be free to make the best choices for your business.

Landmines seem to be a recurring theme.

Among the most challenging I have dealt with are:



19-year-old George

- Family businesses where entrenched personal issues cause almost constant fights between family members, resulting in a dysfunctional and failing business.
- A large corporate client where the personal ambitions of senior executives cause serious divisions within the organisation, resulting in a less competitive business.
- Getting companies to recognise their responsibilities and bring themselves up to date with their bills and statutory reporting.

What is the cost for businesses?

According to official UK government statistics, over 300,000 British businesses failed last year alone. If you are to stand a chance of success, you must clear your landmines before your business adds to the number of casualties.

The latest reports suggest that there are **currently** around 300,000 businesses right now that are on the brink of failure.

Finding and dealing with their landmines may well save them.



Landmines affect businesses of all types and size, even major banks, as we learned from the last recession. No business is immune from the damage that they can cause.

If you're lucky, the business is big enough to survive the damage caused by the fallout from a landmine, though this is not guaranteed. Bigger businesses tend to have bigger landmines.

A landmine, by its very definition, is an issue that is capable of causing life-threatening damage, if not kill instantly.

Running a business properly demands flexibility to adapt to changing market conditions and pursue the path that will lead to success.

At the same time, there is a range of tasks that need to be tackled and can't be put off.

If landmines stop a business from operating as it should, it's only a matter of time till a critical situation arises.

You must clear the field if you are to have the freedom to be truly successful.

How do you defuse a landmine?

Every landmine must be confronted from a neutral perspective, without ego or bias.

Any issue that can damage the business must be defused otherwise the people that rely on the business for their income can find themselves hurt by the fallout.

The business needs to be a safe place where you can earn your living without fear.

1. The first step to defusing a landmine is to be brave and decide that you are finally going to deal with it **properly**. Half-measures can increase the scale of the problem.
2. Identify the landmines and formulate the best solution for each one.
3. Remember that there is a way to defuse every type of mine
4. Be aware that where there is one landmine, there are probably many. Don't leave any behind.
5. Defuse the landmine if you are confident that you can do so without causing any damage.
Or have an experienced professional do it for you.

The new reality

The real relief of no longer having to live with the constant threat of a sudden explosion is a sign that you are now free to be optimistic about your business's future.

You may wonder why you didn't do it sooner. That's a good question.

If you are reading this and haven't defused your landmines, the real question is:

Why Are You Still Waiting?



Meanwhile, real landmines are ruining lives in both current and past conflict zones across the globe.

Support the Halo Trust in their work to remove landmines from areas around the world.

<https://www.halotrust.org/>

Please share this article to help raise awareness of the issue of landmines within businesses and conflict zones around the world.



Call us today about your business landmines.

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