

## **I never thought it would happen to me!**

You may be busy at work, be a good performer and have considerable service – but none of these things will protect you from redundancy or the shock of it. When it does happen, most people go through the emotional roller coaster of change (which I will be writing about next month). During this period it can be difficult to think straight and so here are some top tips from Michelle Lucas, Newbury based career coach with greenfields, which are drawn from some of her own clients' experiences of redundancy.

**Financial Assessment:** As a priority, review your financial situation. If you received a redundancy payment and you have savings, work out how much time this buys you before you have to have another job. Create a “fun fund” and a “get a job” pot. Manual workers should allow at least a month, professional people allow 3 months and senior managers allow 6 months in which to find a job. If you have no redundancy pay and no savings you will need to get out there and take whatever job you can – ideally one that will afford you some time to continue job searching whilst you are working.

**The professional job seeker:** Treat your job search as though it were your job. Keep your previous work routine to give you structure to the day. Ensure your CV is pristine, practice your interview technique and select a number of agencies that can help you. Determine a schedule that means you have time to research companies, follow up with third parties and prepare for interviews. Keep a project file on all the jobs you apply for so that you always appear organised and committed to the organisation you are communicating with.

**Re-assess what you really want:** Being made redundant is a good time to evaluate your career so take some time to consider your life and career goals. Think about how your skill set can be best deployed for your personal satisfaction and investigate new avenues that may have always intrigued you. For many people a complete career change was triggered by a redundancy. So if you've always dreamt of doing something different – perhaps now you can consider all of your options?

**Exploit the “up-side” of unemployment:** This is what the “fun fund” is for! Why not go travelling, spend more time with your family, do some DIY or simply rest! All of these activities will help you re-charge your batteries so that when you do get your next job you are raring to go! Never, ever use your “get a job” pot to fund your “fun” – when the money runs low you need to become a serious job hunter.

There's a saying – you may not be able to control what happens to you, but you can control what you do about it. Being made redundant can be the worst or the best moment of your life – by following the tips above you stand a much better chance of making the experience a positive one.

If you would like more read more top tips about managing redundancy follow ‘Michelle\_Lucas’ on [www.twitter.com/michelle\\_lucas](https://www.twitter.com/michelle_lucas), read her lenses on [www.squidoo.com/Redundancy\\_Consultancy\\_Greenfields](https://www.squidoo.com/Redundancy_Consultancy_Greenfields) or simply get in touch with her direct on [Michelle@greenfieldsconsultancy.co.uk](mailto:Michelle@greenfieldsconsultancy.co.uk)