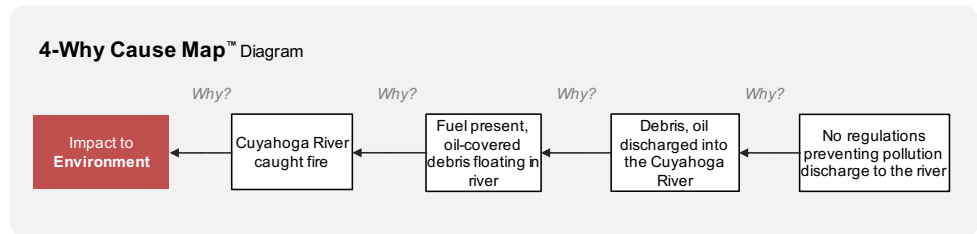


Analyzing the Cuyahoga River Fire & The Acts of Congress Solutions That Followed

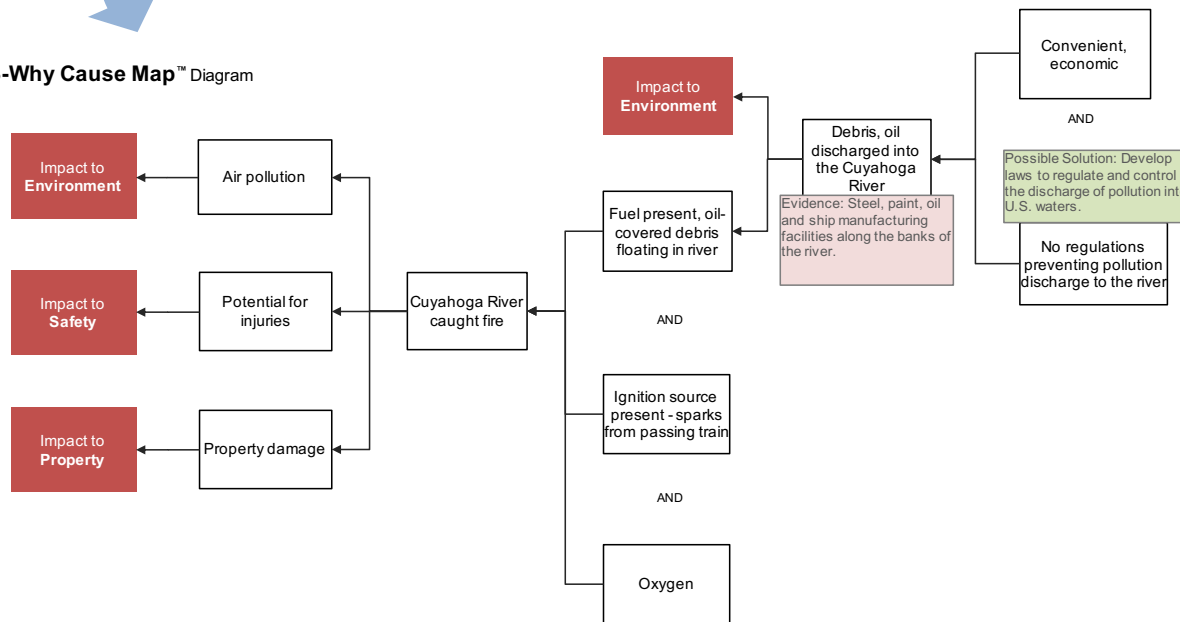
Can you believe that the Cuyahoga River caught on fire 13 times between 1868 and 1969? Although the 1969 fire gained the most national attention, the fire in 1952 was actually the largest. The fire coincided with the American environmental movement and acted as a catalyst to bring about environmental laws such as the Clean Water Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and spurred the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These acts and the creation of the EPA were creative solutions enacted to prevent the recurrence of a similar situation at the Cuyahoga River or elsewhere in the U.S. In this week's root cause analysis case study example, we will take a look at how and why the river caught fire using the Cause Mapping® method of root cause analysis.



Start Simple Start with one goal that was impacted and ask why that goal was impacted. Investigating a problem begins with the problem and then backs into the causes by asking Why questions. If there are multiple goals that were impacted, you can start a 5-Why with any of them.

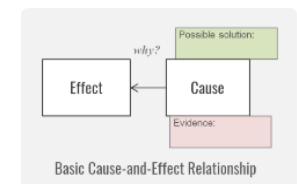
Expand as Needed Break the problem down into a visual Cause Map diagram. Using a Cause Map diagram provides a thorough and intuitive explanation. They reveal all of the causes required to produce the problem.

13-Why Cause Map™ Diagram



Develop Solutions After you have revealed the causes that led up to the incident, then you can brainstorm possible solutions that will reduce the likelihood of a similar incident happening again.

Cause Mapping® Method
Problem Solving • Root Cause Analysis



ThinkReliability®

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