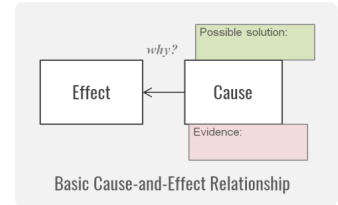


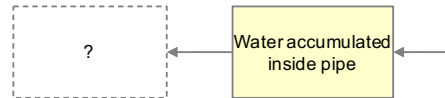
Facilitation Tip 14: Placing a Cause

Facilitation Tip #9 covered the benefits of parking a cause or placing it to the side until you're able to determine where it fits. This tip focuses on how to locate a parked cause and find where it fits on the Cause Map™ Diagram. There are a few different questions to ask about the cause to locate it:

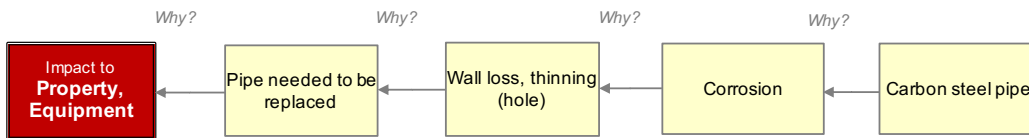
- "What did this cause?"
- "What effect did this produce?"
- "If I took the cause away which effect would I change/control/mitigate?"
- "What does the opposite of this cause produce?"



Pipe Corroded

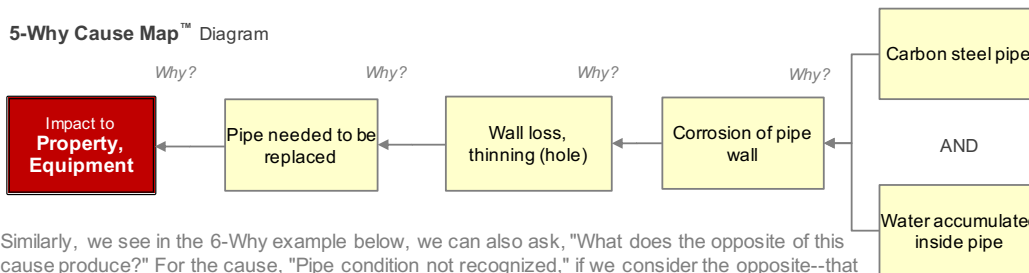


4-Why Cause Map™ Diagram

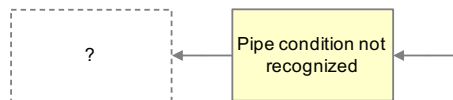


We initially parked the cause, "Water accumulated inside of pipe," because we weren't sure where it fit within the Map. When the group is ready to discuss placing the cause, start with the cause and reading to the left, ask, "What did this cause?" Water accumulating inside the pipe is one of the causes of corrosion. The pipe being made of carbon steel AND the water accumulation are both causes of corrosion.

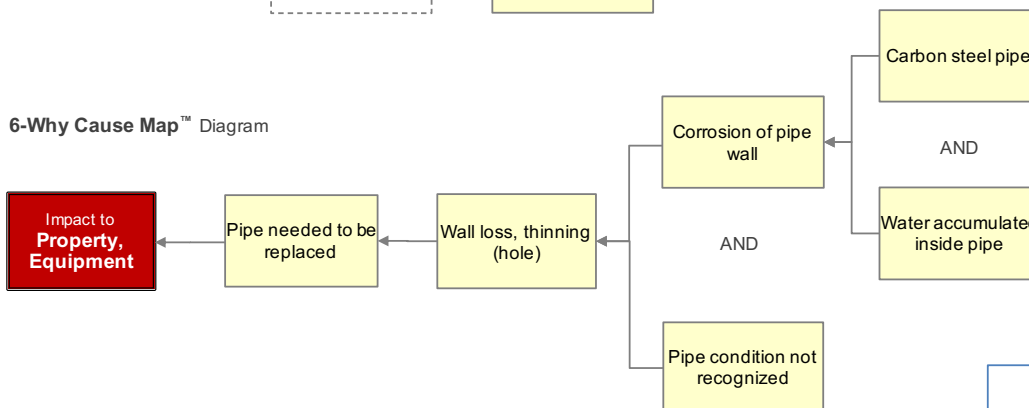
5-Why Cause Map™ Diagram



Similarly, we see in the 6-Why example below, we can also ask, "What does the opposite of this cause produce?" For the cause, "Pipe condition not recognized," if we consider the opposite--that the condition of the pipe was recognized--we see that we may have been able to avoid replacing the pipe (perhaps with a minor repair) before the hole formed in the pipe wall. The hole is then identified as an effect of the condition not being recognized.



6-Why Cause Map™ Diagram




LESSON: Once causes are parked, you'll need to locate them on the Cause Map diagram. Where causes fit will become more evident as you become more proficient at thinking in terms of cause and effect. The additional detail resulting from including these parked causes in the analysis will allow the investigation team to identify additional layers of protection to create safer and more reliable operations.

To learn more about the Cause Mapping® method of root cause analysis and how to better facilitate an investigation, consider one of our online training options at www.thinkreliability.com/events.

To learn more, visit our website at www.thinkreliability.com
email: info@thinkreliability.com phone: 281-412-7766

Facilitation Tip 14

Check out this video that describes how to place a cause within a Cause Map diagram.



(5 minutes)