

# Facilitation Tip 18: Provide Evidence

Facilitation Tip #15 described how to minimize speculation (and why), but with this tip, I want to share how the use of evidence may be a facilitator's best friend. Utilizing the Cause Mapping® method, an evidence-based approach, the facilitator can request evidence to validate a cause or possible scenario. Unnecessary debates and other potentially unproductive conversations may be minimized by quickly identifying when evidence is needed. (And remember, until a cause or information is validated using evidence, use question marks as described in Tip #6 to assist in documenting the draft nature of the findings.) If evidence is provided that disproves or negates a cause, don't delete it. Place an "X" over the cause to show that it was discussed and use evidence to show why it was ruled out.

The incident occurred a specific way, and the Cause Map™ diagram is intended to be a factual account of the incident. Keep in mind that evidence may come in many forms: photographs, operational data and trends, historical data, policies and procedures, witness statements and accounts, calculations, etc.

Providing evidence to support or negate a cause will:

- Keep the investigation and findings factual,
- Provide additional clarity and specificity surrounding the findings and
- Make meetings more efficient and productive.

### Facilitation Tip 18

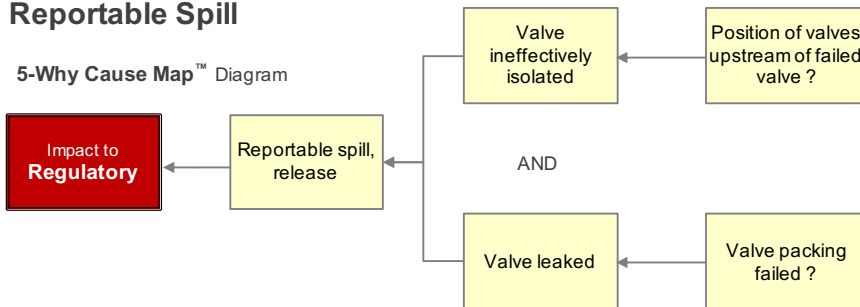
The benefits of providing evidence in your incident investigations is summarized in this video.



(4 minutes)

## Reportable Spill

5-Why Cause Map™ Diagram

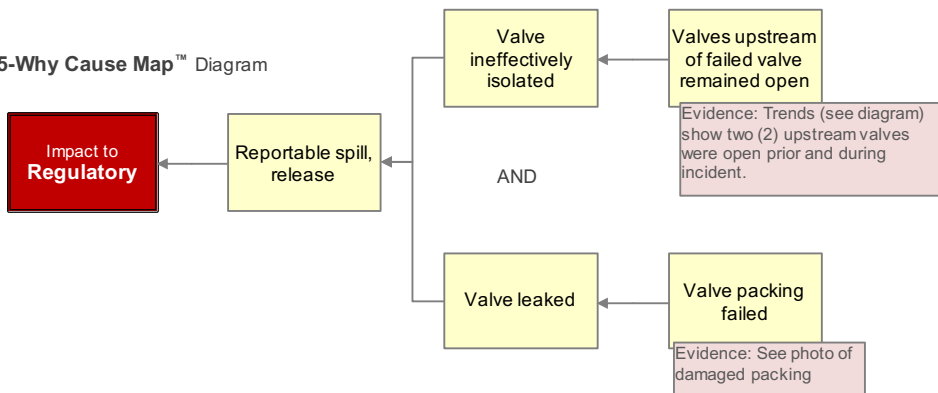


### Info To Get

As described in Tip #15, use the "Info to Get" worksheet within the Cause Mapping investigation template to document what is required to obtain the appropriate evidence. Then, update the file accordingly--adding evidence to the diagram and including any pertinent information in the file.

No.	Investigation Action Items:	Owner
1	Obtain picture of valve packing failure	John
2	Pull positions on valves to understand positions leading up to and during the event	Katie

5-Why Cause Map™ Diagram



**LESSON:** Minimize opinion, speculation and conjecture by providing evidence that will support or negate causes on the Map. If a cause is doubted or disputed, attach a question mark to it, then go collect the appropriate information. Update the Cause Map diagram with the evidence as it's discovered.

Enhance your investigation skills and you may just find yourself enhancing your career. For more training opportunities, consider one of our free webinars, online short courses or a full online workshop.