

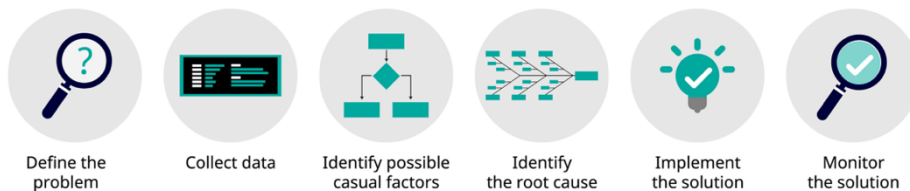


Safety Tip of the Week

Root Cause Analysis (RCA)

OHSA and the EPA encourage employers to conduct a “Root Cause Analysis (or RCA)” when an incident or near miss occurs to investigate the reason why it happened, and to prevent a similar occurrence from happening again. A Root Cause Analysis allows an employer to discover the underlying and systemic causes of an incident rather than the generalized and immediate ones.

Root Cause Analysis Process



A Root Cause Analysis seeks answers to these four questions:

- **What** happened?
- **How** did it happen?
- **Why** did it happen? and
- **What** needs to be corrected?

Gas Explosion Example

Some examples of root causes for a gas explosion might include gas leaks due to aging infrastructure, poor maintenance, construction accidents, or pipeline damage; poorly maintained equipment due to equipment malfunctions or failure; ignition sources like sparks, open flames, and improper grounding; improper ventilation; and human error.

Root Cause Analysis Tools:

Tools for Root Cause Analysis include brainstorming and checklists for simpler events and event/logic trees, timelines, sequence diagrams, and casual factor determination for more complex ones.

FINDING THE ROOT CAUSE...WILL PREVENT FUTURE LOSS!