

Causation Hierarchy

Dig deeper to find the root cause – don't stop at symptoms

Symptom

Observable effect of the problem

Example: Motor is overheating

Immediate Cause

Direct cause of the symptom

Example: Bearing is worn

Contributing Cause

Factors that enabled the cause

Example: Lubrication inadequate

Root Cause

Fundamental reason – fix this to prevent recurrence

Example: No PM schedule exists