

# 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*