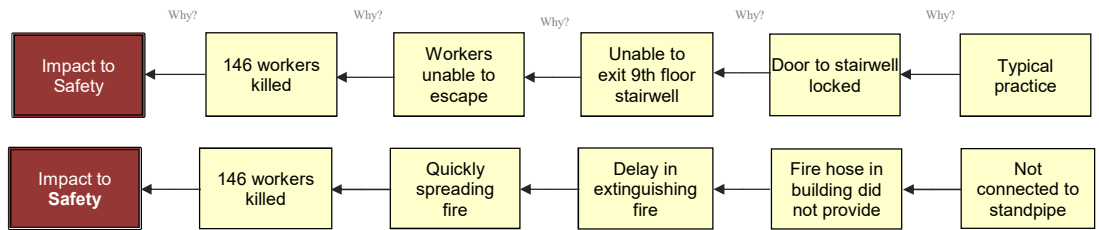


Triangle Company Fire

On March 25, 1911, a fire started at the Triangle Waist Company which occupied the top three floors of the 10-story Asch Building in New York City. The fire was put out in about 30 minutes, but it was too late; 146 of 500 employees died because they could not safely escape the burning building. As a result of this fire, many state and federal legislative reforms regarding factory worker health & safety, and general fire prevention and safety were introduced.

5-Why Cause Map

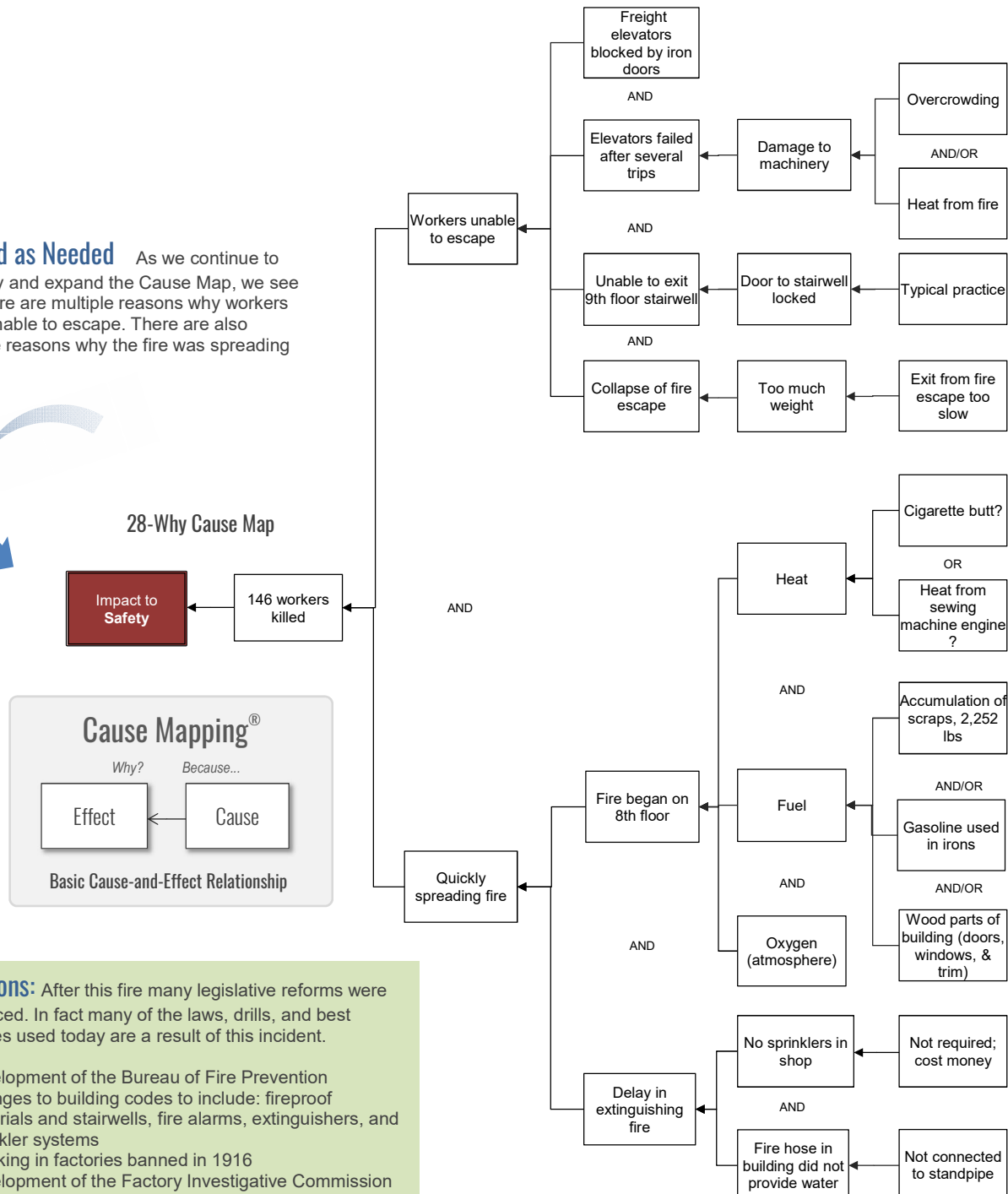


Start Simple

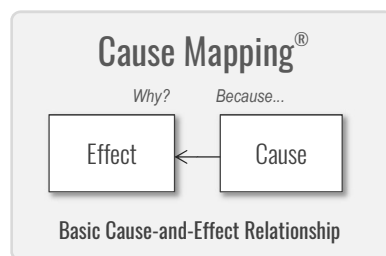
There can be more than one 5-Why for an incident. These illustrate that different people may see the "problem" or the incident differently. Here are two examples of 5-Whys that highlight different paths to the goal impacted. One focuses on why workers couldn't escape. The other focuses on why it was difficult to put out the fire from within the building. Both 5-Why maps are correct.

Expand as Needed

As we continue to ask why and expand the Cause Map, we see that there are multiple reasons why workers were unable to escape. There are also multiple reasons why the fire was spreading quickly.



28-Why Cause Map



Solutions: After this fire many legislative reforms were introduced. In fact many of the laws, drills, and best practices used today are a result of this incident.

- Development of the Bureau of Fire Prevention
- Changes to building codes to include: fireproof materials and stairwells, fire alarms, extinguishers, and sprinkler systems
- Smoking in factories banned in 1916
- Development of the Factory Investigative Commission
- Reforms such as fire exits shall not be locked during