

# 5 ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS METHODS EVERY FRONTLINE LEADER SHOULD KNOW TODAY



## The 5 Why's

Ask "Why?" five times, or as many as it takes, to get past surface-level answers and uncover the real issue.

**Example:** A machine stopped. Why? The fuse blew. Why? The motor overloaded. Why? The bearing wasn't lubricated. Why? Maintenance was skipped. Why? No one was assigned.



## Fishbone Diagram (Ishikawa)

Lay out possible causes under categories like Machine, Method, People, Materials, Environment. Helps teams brainstorm and visualize where things might be going wrong.

**Use it when:** You need a team-based approach to dig into complex or recurring problems.



## Pareto Analysis

Focus on the few issues causing most of the downtime. The 80/20 rule in action

**Use it when:** You have a list of recurring problems and need to prioritize where to put your time and resources first.



## Fault Tree Analysis (FTA)

Map out failure pathways like a decision tree. Helps you understand how smaller problems can combine to cause a major event.

**Use it when:** You're dealing with safety risks or high-cost failures and need a deeper technical look.



## Cause and Effect Matrix

Score how much each possible cause affects the outcome. A structured way to narrow down what matters most.

**Use it when:** You've got a long list of potential causes and need a clear path to action.

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