

5-Why Analysis Template

Near the 5th question, you should be at the root cause.

	Problem/Defect		
	Answer what caused the specific situation	Answer why the problem wasn't detected	Answer what system(s) failed
1 WHY?			
2 WHY?			
3 WHY?			
4 WHY?			
5 WHY?			

To validate Root Causes - Ask the following:
If you removed this Root Cause, would this event have been prevented?

"Why" questions to ask to get to the root cause

- ✓ **Immediate cause:** Why did the incident occur?
- ✓ **Procedural cause:** Why were the standard procedures not followed?
- ✓ **Equipment cause:** Why was the equipment not functioning properly?
- ✓ **Maintenance cause:** Why were maintenance schedules not adhered to?
- ✓ **Staffing and training cause:** Why was the staff not adequately trained or understaffed?
- ✓ **Management cause:** Why were there budget constraints or management decisions that affected staffing and maintenance?
- ✓ **Policy cause:** Why were the policies not in place or not enforced to prevent such incidents?



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