Rules on Inflight Electronics May be Changing Soon

Cause Mapping is a Root Cause Analysis method that captures basic cause-and-effect relationships supported with evidence.

CAUSE MAPPING

Problem Solving • Incident Investigation • Root Cause Analysis

Step 1	Problem	What's the Problem?
Step 2	Analysis	Why did it happen?
Step 3	Solutions	What will be done?

1 Problem

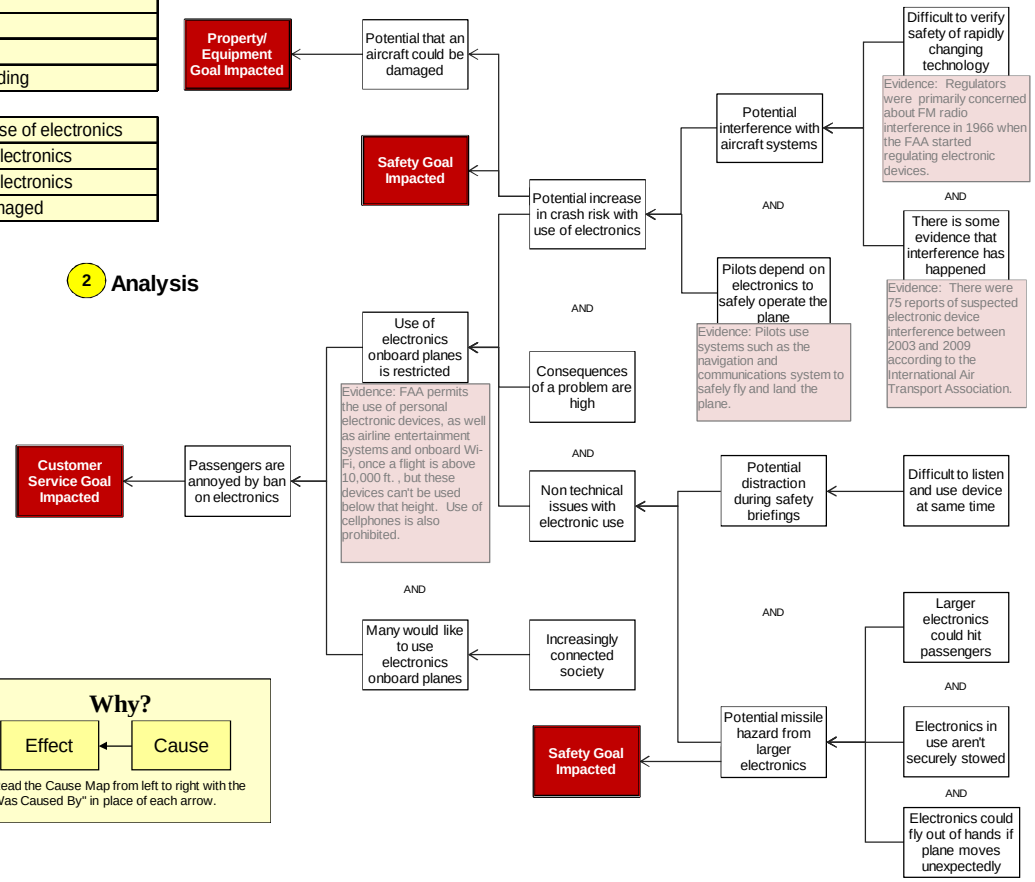
What	Problem(s)	Passengers annoyed by electronic device restrictions on planes, concern over safety with electronic device use
When	Date	New study Fall 2013
	Different, unusual, unique	??
Where	Facility, site	USA
	Unit, area, equipment	Passenger aircraft
	Task being performed	Primarily looking at taking off and landing

Impact to the Goals

Safety	Potential increase in crash risk with use of electronics
Safety	Potential missile hazard from larger electronics
Customer Service	Passengers are annoyed by ban on electronics
Property/ Equipment	Potential that an aircraft could be damaged

In welcome news to many airline passengers, it looks like the FAA may soon allow the use of personal electronic devices during the entire duration of flights, including takeoff and landing. The current restrictions on the use of personal electronics are being reviewed following a recent recommendation by an aviation advisory committee made of up pilots, mechanics, engineers and other aviation experts.

2 Analysis



3 Solutions

The final step in the Cause Mapping process is to use the Cause Map to develop solutions to help reduce the risk of the issue recurring. In this example, an aviation advisory committee recommended several changes to the restrictions on the onboard use of electronics to better balance the desires of the passengers with the safety risk posed by the use of electronics.

If the new recommendations are approved, passengers will be able to use any device that doesn't transfer data the entire flight, including takeoff and landing. Passengers would be able to leave all devices turned on, but they would need to set them to airplane mode so that no data is transmitted. So you won't be able to make calls on your smartphone or stream video, but you would be able to rock out to music already downloaded or read a book on a kindle. Larger devices will still need to be stowed during takeoff and landing because nobody wants to be hit with a laptop, but smaller gadgets will be fair game if the new recommendations are adopted.

Why?

Effect ← Cause

NOTE: Read the Cause Map from left to right with the phrase "Was Caused By" in place of each arrow.

ThinkReliability

Investigate Problems. Prevent Problems.

Houston, Texas 281-412-7766 ThinkReliability.com

Copyright ThinkReliability 2013