

Supply of Disposable Diapers Threatened by Explosion at Chemical Plant

Himeji, Japan
September 29, 2012

On September 29, 2012, an explosion at a chemical plant in Japan killed a fire fighter, injured 35 others and did significantly damage. Chemicals produced at the plant are used in disposable diapers. The damaged plant will be inoperable for the foreseeable future, which will likely impact the global supply of disposable diapers, a thought that strikes fear in the hearts of many parents of small children.

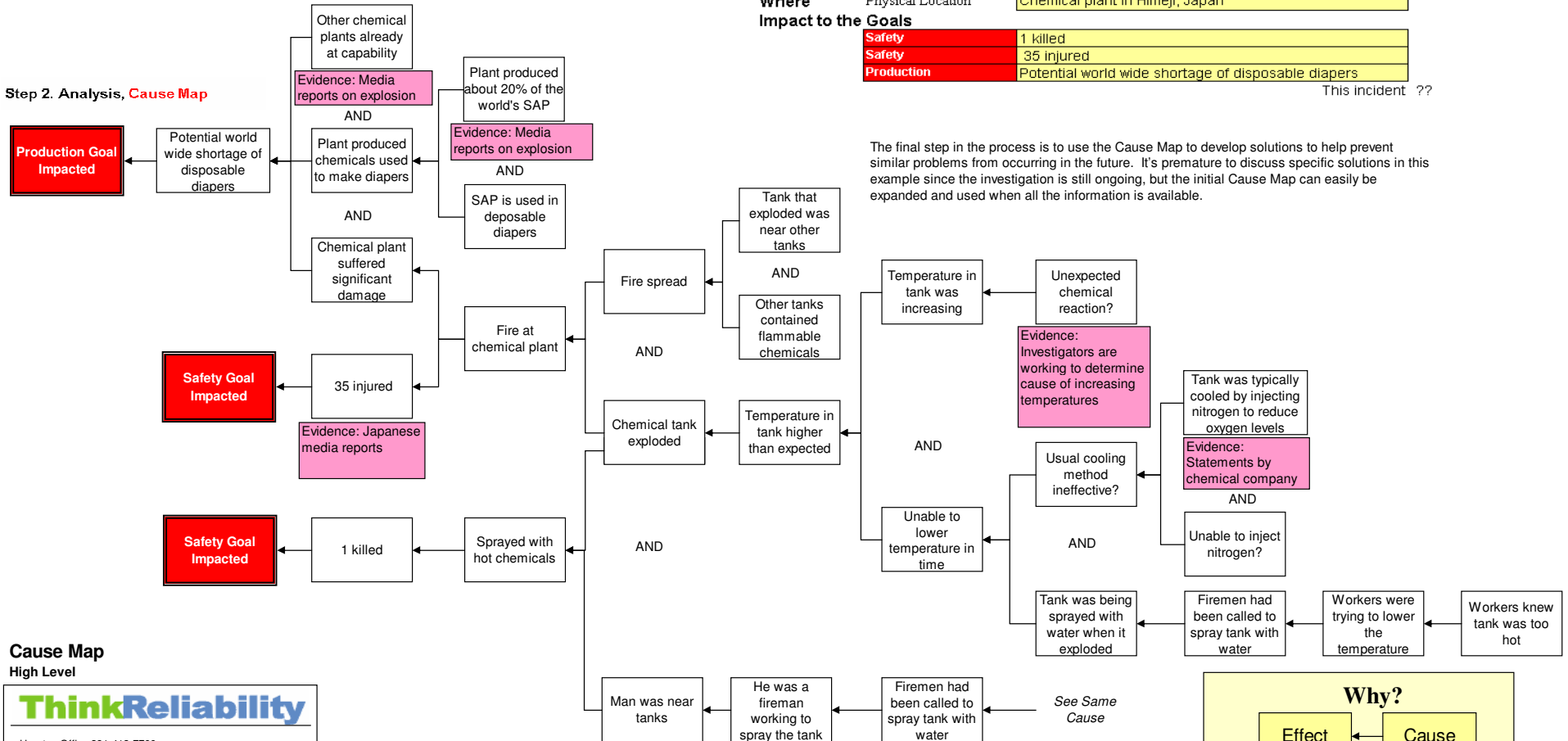
Step 1. Outline the Problem

What	Problem(s)	Explosion at chemical plant, one killed and many injured
When	Date	09/29/12
	Time	2:35 PM
	Differences	Tank temp was increasing, cause unknown
Where	Physical Location	Chemical plant in Himeji, Japan
Impact to the Goals	Safety	1 killed
	Safety	35 injured
	Production	Potential world wide shortage of disposable diapers

This incident ??

The final step in the process is to use the Cause Map to develop solutions to help prevent similar problems from occurring in the future. It's premature to discuss specific solutions in this example since the investigation is still ongoing, but the initial Cause Map can easily be expanded and used when all the information is available.

Step 2. Analysis, Cause Map



Cause Map High Level

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Why?

Effect

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Cause

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