

Gas Explosion Rocks Springfield, Massachusetts

Springfield, Massachusetts
November 23, 2012

1 Problem

What	Problem(s)	Gas explosion, buildings damaged, people injured
When	Date	11/23/12
	Time	just before 6 pm
	Differences	Reports of smelling gas
Where	Physical Location	downtown Springfield Massachusetts
Impact to the Goals		
	Safety	20 people injured, potential for deaths
	Property	42 buildings damaged
	Schedule	Time needed to rebuild

On Friday, November 23, 2012, a massive gas explosion rocked downtown Springfield, Massachusetts. No one was killed because the area had been evacuated while a suspected gas leak was investigated, but 20 people were injured and many buildings were damaged.

This incident can be analyzed by building a Cause Map, an intuitive, visual way to perform a root cause analysis. The first step when creating a Cause Map is to document the basic information in an Outline and determine how the goals were impacted. Once the impacts to the goals are determined, the Cause Map is built by asking "why" questions. Once the investigation is complete, the final step would be to develop and implement solutions that would prevent something similar from occurring in the future.

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

2 Analysis

