

1 Problem

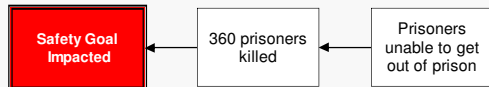
What	Problem(s)	Prison fire, 355 killed
When	Date	February 15, 2012
	Time	~11:00 a.m.
	Different, unusual, unique	Some inmates had not been charged with a crime or convicted; overcrowded, understaffed prison
Where	Facility, site	Comayagua Prison, Honduras

Impact to the Goals		
Safety	360 prisoners killed	
Environmental	?	
Customer Service	Delay in rescue	
Production-Schedule	Prison overcrowding	
Property, Equip, Mtls	Damage to prison	
Labor, Time	?	

Frequency: 3 deadly prison fire in Honduras since 2003

2 Analysis

Basic Level Cause Map - Start with simple Why questions.



Basic Cause-and-Effect

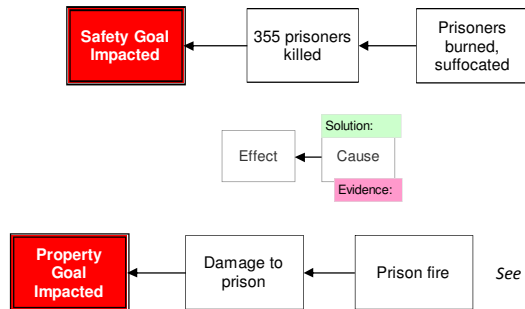
For the third time in nine years, prisoners have been killed in a prison fire in Honduras. Just more than 3 years since over 100 prisoners were killed in a prison fire in San Pedro Sula, 360 prisoners (so far) have died as a result of a fire in Comayagua Prison. An open flame has been determined to be the cause of the fire but contributing to the deaths is that the prisoners were

More Detailed Cause-and-Effect

An investigation determined that an open flame (such as a cigarette or candle) and not arson, as was suggested prior to the investigation, caused the fire. However, severe overcrowding (more than 800 prisoners were in a jail with a capacity of 500) and a delay in the rescue of the prisoners contributed to the massive death toll.

Honduras has a chronic overcrowding problem. Honduras has a high rate of homicides and a high number of gang members. Gang members receive strict sentences and, in many cases, are jailed prior to conviction. However, an increased number of inmates has not led to an increased number of guards. On the night of the fire, there were 6 guards on duty. Guards who were in the towers were not allowed to leave their posts to help with the fire-fighting and rescue efforts. The guard who had the only set of keys fled prior to unlocking the doors. (The guards are facing disciplinary actions.) Firefighters were not allowed to enter the jail for 30 minutes after the fire call as the guards believed they were experiencing a riot or breakout. An inmate who was not in his cell at the time of the fire was able to free many prisoners.

This incident has added more fuel to the international outcry over the state of Honduras prisons. However, not much appears to have been done to improve conditions since the previous fires in 2003 and 2009, so it's unclear if anything will change as a result of this fire. It is certainly apparent that the safety of prisoners cannot be maintained with the current overcrowding and number of guards. Additionally, procedures in the case of a fire certainly need to be improved to ensure that prisoners can be evacuated safely and securely.



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PRISON FIRE

Cause Map 355 prisoners killed in Honduras

How do you know when your solutions haven't been effective? When the same problem keeps happening. Another prison fire claimed 360 lives in Honduras. This is the third prison fatal prison fire in nine years, resulting from chronic overcrowding and understaffing of Honduran jails.

"Honduras's horrific prison fire was a tragedy waiting to happen"
 - The Guardian

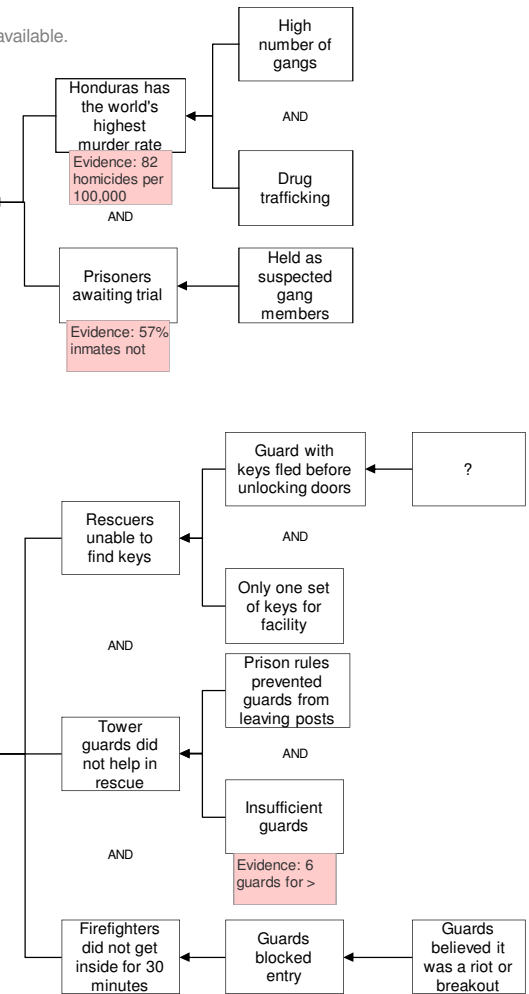
More Detailed Cause Map - Add detail as information becomes available.

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?



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