

COMMUTER TRAIN HITS SUV

Cause Map

Driver of vehicle and 5 passengers on train killed

On February 3, 2015, an SUV was struck by a commuter train near Valhalla, New York. The driver of the vehicle and 5 train passengers were killed in the accident. Eyewitnesses have stated that the SUV was hit by a crossing gate as it descended. The driver pulled the SUV forward onto the tracks rather than backing up and the train struck the vehicle shortly after. Investigators don't know why the driver stopped on the tracks, but initial reports are that all safety features, such as the crossing gate, signs and train horn, were functioning properly at the time of the accident.

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?

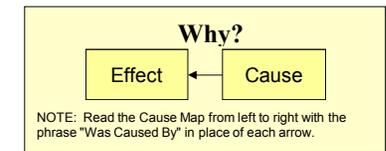


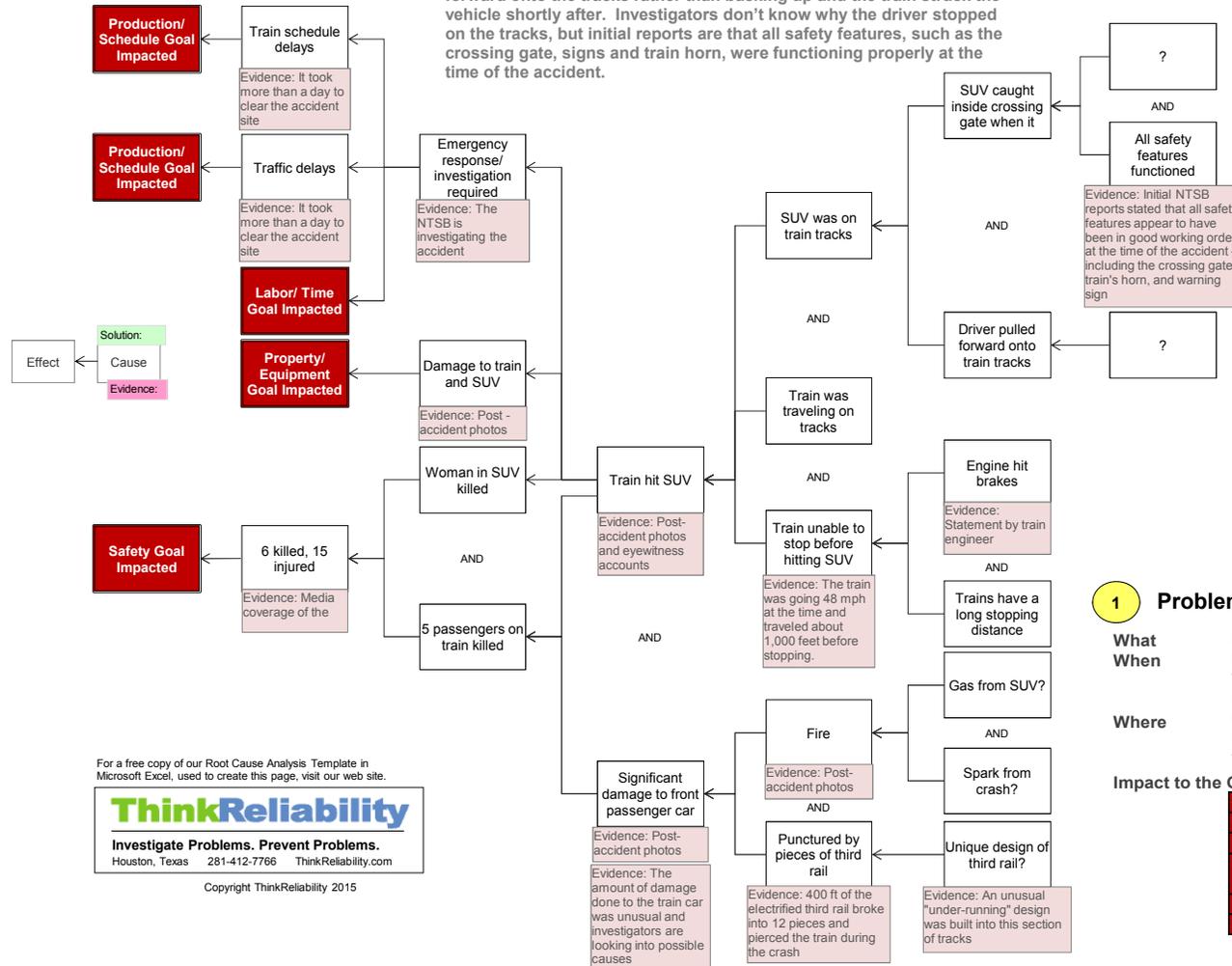
Photo of investigators at accident site. Taken by the Nation

1 Problem

What	Problem(s)	Commuter train hit SUV at railroad crossing
When	Date	February 3, 2015
	Time	~6:30 PM
Where	Different, unusual, unique	Passengers on train killed
	Facility, site	Train tracks near Valhalla, N.Y
	Unit, area, equipment	Commuter train
	Task being performed	Train traveling past railroad crossing

Impact to the Goals	
Safety	6 killed, 15 injured
Environmental	?
Regulatory	?
Production/ Schedule	Train schedule delays
	Traffic delays
Property/ Equipment	Damage to train and SUV
Labor/ Time	Emergency response/ investigation required

2 Analysis



For a free copy of our Root Cause Analysis Template in Microsoft Excel, used to create this page, visit our web site.

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