

1 Problem

What	Problem(s)	Nurse stabbed; critical condition
When	Date	April 20, 2014
	Time	Just after 2:00 AM
Where	Different, unusual, unique	Attacker bypassed weapons screening area
	Facility, site	Los Angeles County, California hospital
	Unit, area, equipment	?
	Task being performed	?

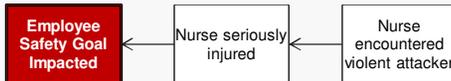
Impact to the Goals

Patient Safety	None; potential for injury
Employee Safety	Nurse seriously injured
Environmental	None
Compliance	?
Patient Services	Attacker bypassed weapons screening area
Schedule/ Operations	?
Property/ Equipment	?
Labor/ Time	?

Frequency: Another stabbing in county occurred later that morning (believed unrelated)

2 Analysis

Basic Level Cause Map - Start with simple Why questions.



Basic Cause-and-Effect

Nurses and other hospital personnel have noted the difficulty in determining the potential for an escalation of violence in patients and other visitors. According to the President of the Emergency Nurses Association, Deena Brecher, R.N. "You need to be able to recognize when things are starting to escalate. We know our behaviors can help escalate a situation, not intentionally."

3 Solutions

Many nurses are calling for establishment of workplace violence plans that would provide nurses and other hospital workers tools to identify and de-escalate potentially violent behavior, as well as provide additional protections against these types of attacks. Some hospitals have begun using a mobile distress system, such as a help button worn around the neck that allows a worker to request backup in a situation that feels unsafe.

These solutions bring up an interesting discussion against prevention and blame. The solutions listed above all require action by the part of nurses or hospital workers. Many organizations attempt to determine the person to "blame" for a situation, and then assign corrective actions accordingly. Clearly, nobody is trying to imply that hospital workers are at fault for these violent attacks (blame) but are rather trying to provide tools within their sphere of control to reduce the risk of worker injury (prevention). Preventing all people prone to violence from entering a hospital, while theoretically more effective at solving the problem, is neither practical nor possible. Thus it is hoped that providing hospital workers additional tools will result in reduced injuries from hospital violence

HOSPITAL STABBINGS DEMONSTRATE INCREASED VIOLENCE AGAINST NURSES

Two Los Angeles area nurses are stabbed the same morning at different hospitals by different attackers

Cause Map

"We cannot stand by while nurses, other hospital staff, patients, families and visitors are put in harm's way in hospitals that fail to provide the measures that will protect their staff and the community."

- Malinda Markowitz, President of the California Nurses Association

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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?

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

