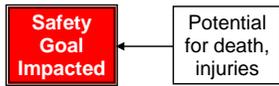
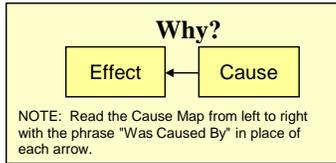
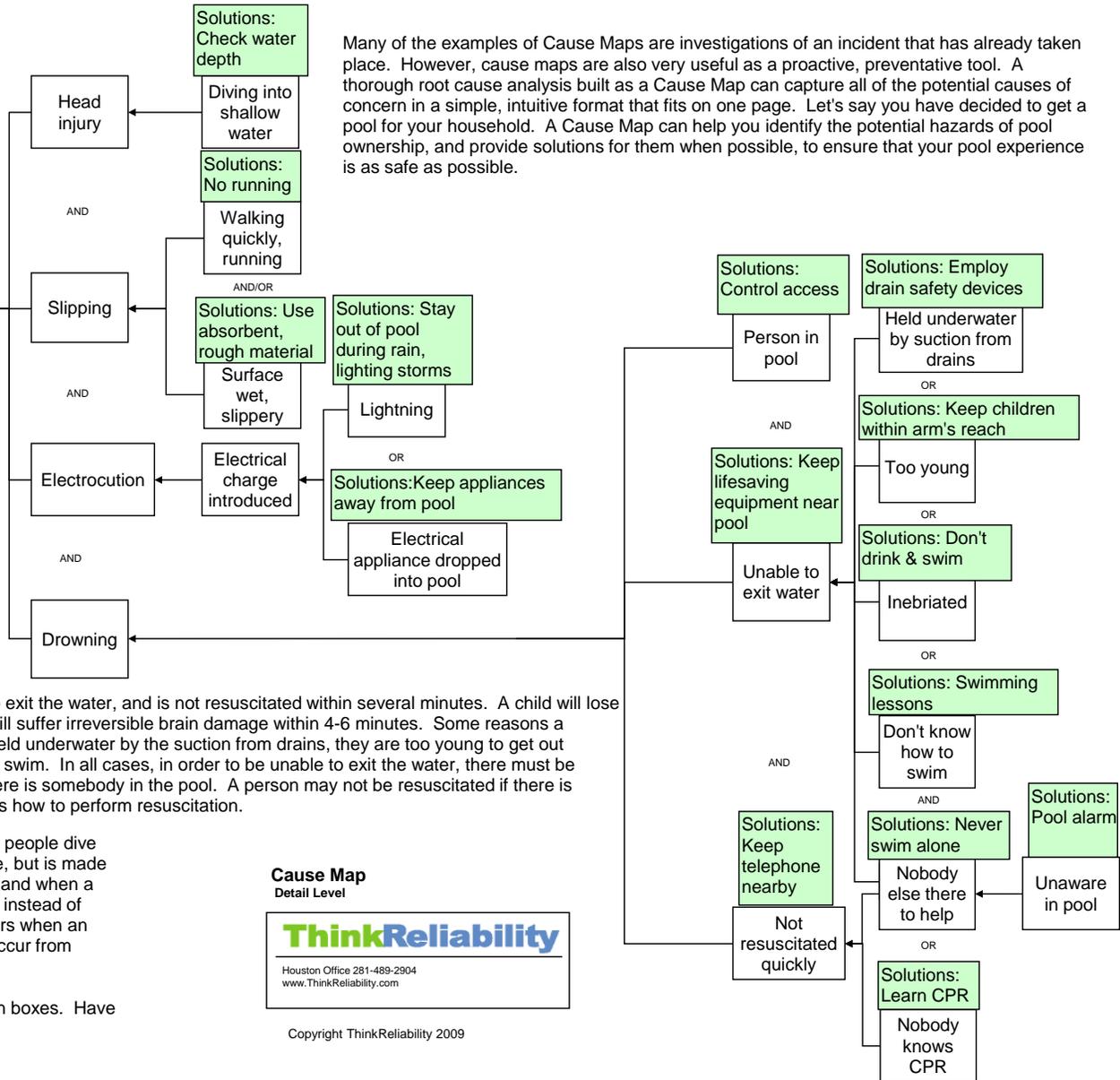


Preventing Pool Injuries



Preventing pool injuries is extremely important. About 43,000 people each year are injured in and around swimming pools and 600 people drown. Of the 600, approximately 260 are children under the age of 5. Half of pool drownings occur in the yards of single-family homes. Obviously, drowning is a concern when discussing pool safety, but the other top causes of injuries around pools are head injuries, slipping, and electrocution. We'll look at each in turn, and discuss solutions, which are shown in green boxes.



Many of the examples of Cause Maps are investigations of an incident that has already taken place. However, cause maps are also very useful as a proactive, preventative tool. A thorough root cause analysis built as a Cause Map can capture all of the potential causes of concern in a simple, intuitive format that fits on one page. Let's say you have decided to get a pool for your household. A Cause Map can help you identify the potential hazards of pool ownership, and provide solutions for them when possible, to ensure that your pool experience is as safe as possible.

Drowning occurs when a person is in the pool, is unable to exit the water, and is not resuscitated within several minutes. A child will lose consciousness after 2 minutes of being submerged, and will suffer irreversible brain damage within 4-6 minutes. Some reasons a person may be unable to exit the water are that they are held underwater by the suction from drains, they are too young to get out themselves, they are inebriated, or they don't know how to swim. In all cases, in order to be unable to exit the water, there must be nobody there to help, because people don't realize that there is somebody in the pool. A person may not be resuscitated if there is nobody there to help, or if there is nobody there who knows how to perform resuscitation.

Head injuries around pools most commonly occur when people dive into shallow water. Slipping can occur almost anywhere, but is made more likely when a person is walking quickly or running and when a surface is wet and made from slippery material (e.g. tile instead of cement or absorbent stone.) Finally, electrocution occurs when an electrical charge is introduced into the pool. This can occur from lightning or an electrical appliance.

Solutions to prevent pool injuries are shown in the green boxes. Have a safe summer!

Cause Map Detail Level



Copyright ThinkReliability 2009