

1 Problem

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|--|
| What When | Problem(s) | Night club fire, 492 fatalities |
| | Date | November 28, 1942 |
| | Time | 10:15 PM |
| | Different, unusual, unique | night club exceeded allowable capacity, ~1000 patrons at the club vs. capacity of 430; recently expanded Broadway lounge |
| Where | Facility, site | Cocoanut Grove Night Club |
| | Unit, area, equipment | Melody Lounge |
| | Task being performed | Normal operations |

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Impact to the Goals | |
| Safety | 492 fatalities, 166 injuries |
| Environmental | NA |
| Cust. Service | Significant customer service impact |
| Production-Schedule | Significant |
| Property, Equip, Mtls | Complete destruction of club |
| Labor, Time | Fire response, medical treatment, clean-up, investigation |

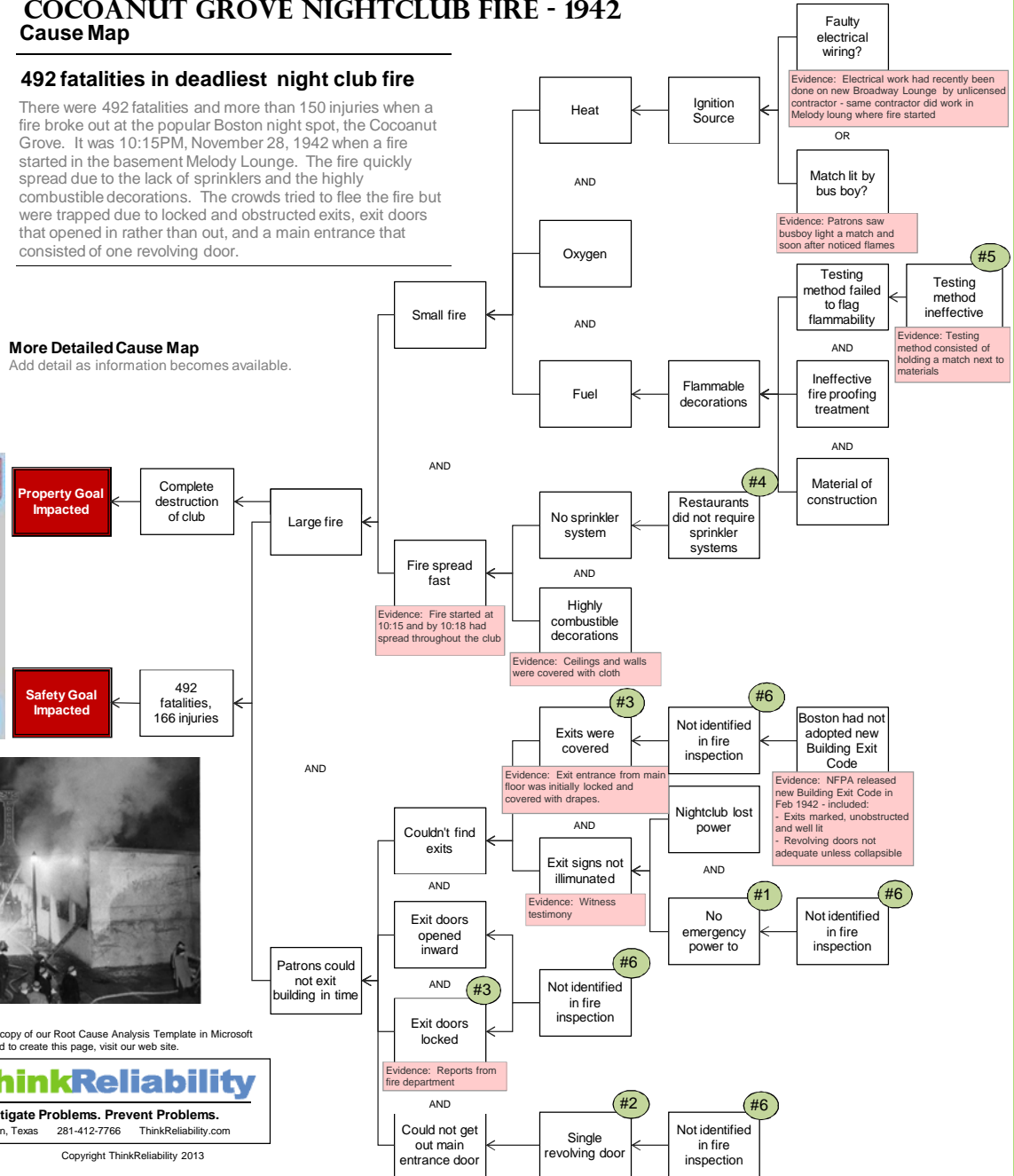
COCOANUT GROVE NIGHTCLUB FIRE - 1942 Cause Map

492 fatalities in deadliest night club fire

There were 492 fatalities and more than 150 injuries when a fire broke out at the popular Boston night spot, the Cocoanut Grove. It was 10:15PM, November 28, 1942 when a fire started in the basement Melody Lounge. The fire quickly spread due to the lack of sprinklers and the highly combustible decorations. The crowds tried to flee the fire but were trapped due to locked and obstructed exits, exit doors that opened in rather than out, and a main entrance that consisted of one revolving door.

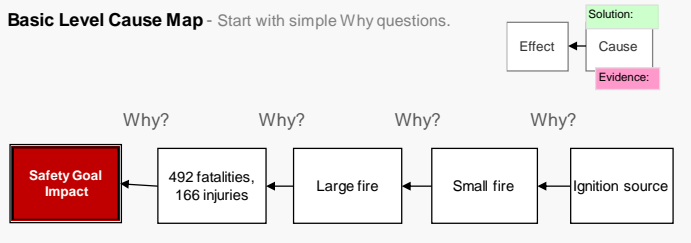
More Detailed Cause Map

Add detail as information becomes available.



2 Analysis

Basic Level Cause Map - Start with simple Why questions.



3 Solutions

Location of solution and the cause that it controls

| No. | Action Item | Cause |
|-----|---|---|
| 1 | Ensure back-up power supply for exit signs | No emergency power to signs |
| 2 | Require alternate exit for revolving door, or make revolving door collapsible | Single revolving door |
| 3 | Require exits to be unobstructed | Exit doors locked; Exits were covered |
| 4 | Require restaurants to have sprinkler systems | Restaurants did not require sprinkler systems |
| 5 | Improve methods for testing for flammability in materials | Testing method ineffective |
| 6 | Enforce Building Exit Code | Not identified during fire inspection |



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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