Monte Carlo Hotel Fire
Las Vegas, Nevada
January 25, 2008

14 minor injuries
6,000 evacuated

Safety Goal
Impacted

Customer Goal
Impacted

Production Goal
Impacted

Materials/Labor Goal
Impacted

Oxygen
Present in environment

Fire on roof of hotel

Flammable material
Building materials on exterior

Use of Exterior Insulation Finishing System
Common construction material in Las Vegas

Evidence: EIFS is a foam like material used to create the facades on many casinos.

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Hotel closed for three weeks

Significant damage to hotel

$100 million in damages and lost business

A thorough root cause analysis built as a Cause Map can capture all of the causes in a simple, intuitive format that fits on one page. The Cause Map shows that the fire started because a spark from a hand held cutting torch hit a flammable material. The Cause Map can also be used to identify possible solutions that would prevent another fire. In this case, two areas that would merit further investigation would be the use of highly flammable material on buildings and the lack of protective measures taken to protect the EIFS from being hit by sparks. From the information available, it isn’t clear why no protective measures were taken to protect the EIFS, but it is known that the contractor failed to obtain the correct permit (which involves getting information on appropriate safety procedures). It is reported in an Associated Press article on the fire that Las Vegas city officials are currently evaluating whether restrictions should be placed on the use of EIFS.

This is an intermediate level root cause analysis of the hotel fire. It was built using the facts that were available in media reports on the fire. As more details are known, the Cause Map can be expanded.

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