

Tracking Critical Events

In past articles, we have discussed the causes for downtime or lost time and some of the possible results that are achievable for starting an initiative at your location. Let's expand further on tracking the results for your initiative at a low level and also, starting a simplified root cause analysis activity set as well.

As most already know, Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE) tracks availability, productivity, and waste. Unfortunately, not everyone has the luxury of accurate OEE systems. To start event tracking, get your Operations partners to log critical downtime events that shut down an entire production line for an established period (in hours) as a threshold. For starters, don't try to get every event, set the threshold at a reasonable level. You can always reduce the time later as the process is proven. For any event exceeding the threshold, Operations completes a form that asks the impact, the problem, initial assumed problem cause, the underlying root cause, the financial value or benefit, preventative actions to ensure it doesn't reoccur, and a validation step. Once a first draft is done, the form passes to the Maintenance group. Together with your Operations partners from the area affected, Maintenance meets to determine the real root cause and preventive actions. After corrective actions are complete, validate together over time to make sure it does not reoccur.

This is a simple way to begin the documentation process to not only show the true cost of downtime but to share your results across the organization. Over time, you can expand the program to equipment that doesn't shut down the entire line but causes production losses individually for an extended period.

About the author:

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