# Preventing Birthdays in Backlog Management

Maintenance is about mitigating the consequences of failure (the risks).  Managing the Maintenance Backlog is no different, it too is about managing risk. Instead of looking at backlog only in terms of schedule ready and total backlog, segment your backlog using Priority, Criticality, and Requested By dates. Then, trend it over time (30 days, 30-60, 60-90, and greater than 90 days). Ensure that you dedicate 10-15% of your resources to lower priority work so that we work on all levels of priority.  Lastly, don't let work orders in your backlog have birthdays.

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