

Causal Statement Worksheet

A causal statement links the causes an RCA² team identifies to the effects and then back to the main event that prompted the RCA² in the first place. A causal statement has three parts:

1. The cause: "This happened..."
2. The effect: "...which led to something else happening..."
3. The event: "...which caused this undesirable outcome."

For each causal statement you write, apply the Five Rules of Causation to ensure it focuses on systems issues and does not cite human error as a root cause.

Causal Statement #1:

- Clearly shows the "cause and effect" relationship.
- Uses specific and accurate descriptors for what occurred.
- Human errors have a preceding cause.
- Violations of procedure are not root causes.
- Failure to act is only causal if there is a pre-existing duty to act.

Causal Statement #2:

- Clearly shows the "cause and effect" relationship.
- Uses specific and accurate descriptors for what occurred.
- Human errors have a preceding cause.
- Violations of procedure are not root causes.
- Failure to act is only causal if there is a pre-existing duty to act.

Causal Statement #3:

- Clearly shows the "cause and effect" relationship.
- Uses specific and accurate descriptors for what occurred.
- Human errors have a preceding cause.
- Violations of procedure are not root causes.
- Failure to act is only causal if there is a pre-existing duty to act.