

The Fishbone Diagram

Fishbone diagrams provide a way to organize evidence collected from a worksite incident scene and during witness interviews to help identify a root cause.

Place the effect—the resulting incident problem—at the head of the fish. List the possible contributing causes on the smaller “bones” and organize them by categories including management, equipment, process, environment, materials and people. Add subcategories as needed. Several subcategory examples are included below as well. Using the diagram below, you can organize information about the incident scene and details from witnesses to drill down to identify the root cause.

