Accident Review: Most Critical Solution Intro

Once the Committee reaches a consensus on the Root Cause of an accident, it moves to the next step of exploring possible solutions. After developing the list of possible solutions, it acts to reach a consensus on the Most Critical Solution.

The Most Critical Solution is the one solution that would most significantly prevent a similar occupational injury or illness from happening, or an occupational risk exposure from developing.

Solution is a dangerous term. Nothing is going to "solve" the accident that already happened. Instead the solution should be designed to keep the next accident from happening by changing the worksite and its culture to a safer place. As these solutions are identified and acted on, there should be a cumulative effect as risks are removed from the workplace before they result in injuries. In simple terms, we are trying to break the cycle that sees members having employees suffer similar injuries in similar ways on an ongoing basis.

While the Committee is considering the single accident in front of them, it is not unlikely that they will see patterns formed by their review of other injuries. This pattern, or risk exposure, might have its own "Most Critical Solution" that is different than the one agreed upon on the specific accident.

In its report to management, after the monthly meeting, the Committee is:
- Identifying the accident or injury that has occurred,
- Providing its opinion on the Root Cause of the injury or accident, and
- Providing its opinion on the Most Critical Solution to prevent a similar accident from occurring.
- Identifying and addressing any perceived patterns of accidents in the same way.

At that point the entity's management structure takes over the issue, and responds as it sees fit.

We acknowledged that some members currently have many accidents to consider on a monthly basis, but it should also be recognized that there are a finite number of Root Causes and Most Critical Solutions, and as these are addressed, the number of accidents and injuries should be reduced, and the work required of the Safety Advisory Committee should diminish.