



Project Primer

It's a Blast!

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Greetings

We hope that the "Project Primer" continues to "blow you away" with valuable insight each month on topics that are relevant to your current and future business needs. We welcome your feedback as well as suggestions and requests for future newsletter topics.

About Us

It's our 10 year anniversary this year!

10 Year Anniversary Tidbits...

Our firm spent 2006 focused on developing and implementing recovery plans. Based on experience we gained protecting the Chicago Board of Trade during the Chicago Flood,

Project Recovery Planning

It's no secret that a project can quickly deteriorate in a very short period of time. The trick to minimizing the impact of realized risks is to recognize issues and implement corrective actions early enough to fix the problems before they spiral out of control and erode profit margins. Using our ACID methodology, organizations learn to Anticipate issues before they get out of control and proactively Communicate to increase the amount of time available to the field to Implement effective corrective actions.

The ACID methodology is just one of several Project Control tools available to make anticipating and communicating issues easier and improve the speed at which a project team can operate and respond. Project controls act as an "early warning system" by monitoring the progress and performance of key cost drivers and project risks. Project Controls include tools

we were engaged to help with planning, sequencing, and optimizing restoration activities to rebuild the Beau Rivage Hotel and Casino in Biloxi, MS after Hurricane Katrina and place it back into operation. We were also engaged to assist with developing performance recovery plans for the 500 kV Harry Allen - Mead Transmission line (T-line) project in Nevada and the 345 kV Arrowhead-Weston T-line project in Wisconsin, which was recently awarded the prestigious 2009 Edison Electric Institute (EEI) Edison Award. Ironically, we also found ourselves back in Chicago providing expert witness services for another Chicago flooding issue.

Additional Project Recovery Planning Resources

How to Avoid Project Failure through Project Planning and Effective Project Recovery

[avoid project failure](#)

Recovery plan for derailed projects

[recovery plan](#)

The Rapid Assessment and Recovery of Troubled Projects

[project smart](#)

such as a Risk Matrix, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), Action Item Log, Critical Path Method (CPM) Schedules, and various Checklists.... Proper set-up on a project and training in the use of these tools is crucial to effective Recovery Planning, and this "ounce of prevention" makes the job execution phase easier, more efficient, and can prevent or minimize the severity of most project issues.

Having Project Control tools in place and proactively using them to anticipate and communicate issues is the "prevention" side of Recovery Planning, but when an issue does present itself it is time for the "pound of cure". This phase, better known as Performance Management, is a circular process, not a "one and done" activity. By following a few key steps, the Project Professional is better able to respond and manage critical issues by:

1. Quickly identifying and communicating the root cause of an issue
2. Identifying and communicating the recovery options (complete, partial, or no recovery)
3. Identifying and communicating the costs of each recovery option.
4. Implementing the most appropriate corrective action plan
5. Monitoring performance results, evaluating, and communicating progress
6. Re-assessing the solution and making additional performance adjustments as needed

Following these simple steps increases the chance of achieving a more complete and successful recovery as well as preventing the damage from spreading beyond the project. Proactive communications with management, the project team, and the customer also establishes clear leadership, conveys organizational competence, and instills confidence that the problem is being worked and resolved.

If you'd like more detail about how to effectively implement Project Control tools or a more in depth discussion about the Recovery Planning "cure cycle", we'd be happy to sit down and discuss your organization's Recovery Planning needs with you.

Mike Allen, P.E.
President

Future Topics

If you have a topic of interest you'd like to see please submit your suggestion on our website [Contact Form](#)

Service Spotlight

Are you struggling with Recovery Planning, or are you thinking about proactively implementing some "preventive" project control tools? We would be happy to discuss this with you in more detail as part of your margin improvement process and help you sleep better at night.

We can be contacted at (630) 515-0883 or by using our website [Contact Form](#).

Project Recovery Humor

