

An effective approach to problem solving and decision making in safety management.

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Presentation Title: *An effective approach to problem solving and decision making in safety management.*

Focus: *Safety and Leadership in the Mining Sector*

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Abstract: *Organisations grapple with the same problems year after year, wasting incredible amounts of time and money. The reason for their failure to resolve these problems is the lack of a process. Using simple principles, you will be able to resolve problems quickly and effectively. Follow a step-by-step approach. Problem solving is most effective when it follows a sequence of steps. Without such an approach, people often start with solutions: An integral approach to problem solving and decision making ensures that there is ownership and shared responsibility. Consideration of worldviews as they pertain to your organisation will unravel the imbalances that perhaps are not given attention. Using a team approach where necessary ensures there is many hands to make light work. The greater the involvement and contribution of others, the more the commitment to implementing the solution.*

Don't be bound by old paradigms. There is a lot of conventional wisdom about how things should be done. Sweep it away! Look for new and innovative solutions. Brainstorm. Get lots of ideas – even wacky ones. Build on some, combine others. Then decide on the best. The more unconventional the idea, the more you might be inclined to pilot it. After a successful test, implement it across the board.

Get a fresh perspective on old problems. Get the opinion of new employees. They probably have new ideas for solving old problems. Clarity of the problem and a process approach ensures that risk-based solutions are deployed and support the decision-making process.