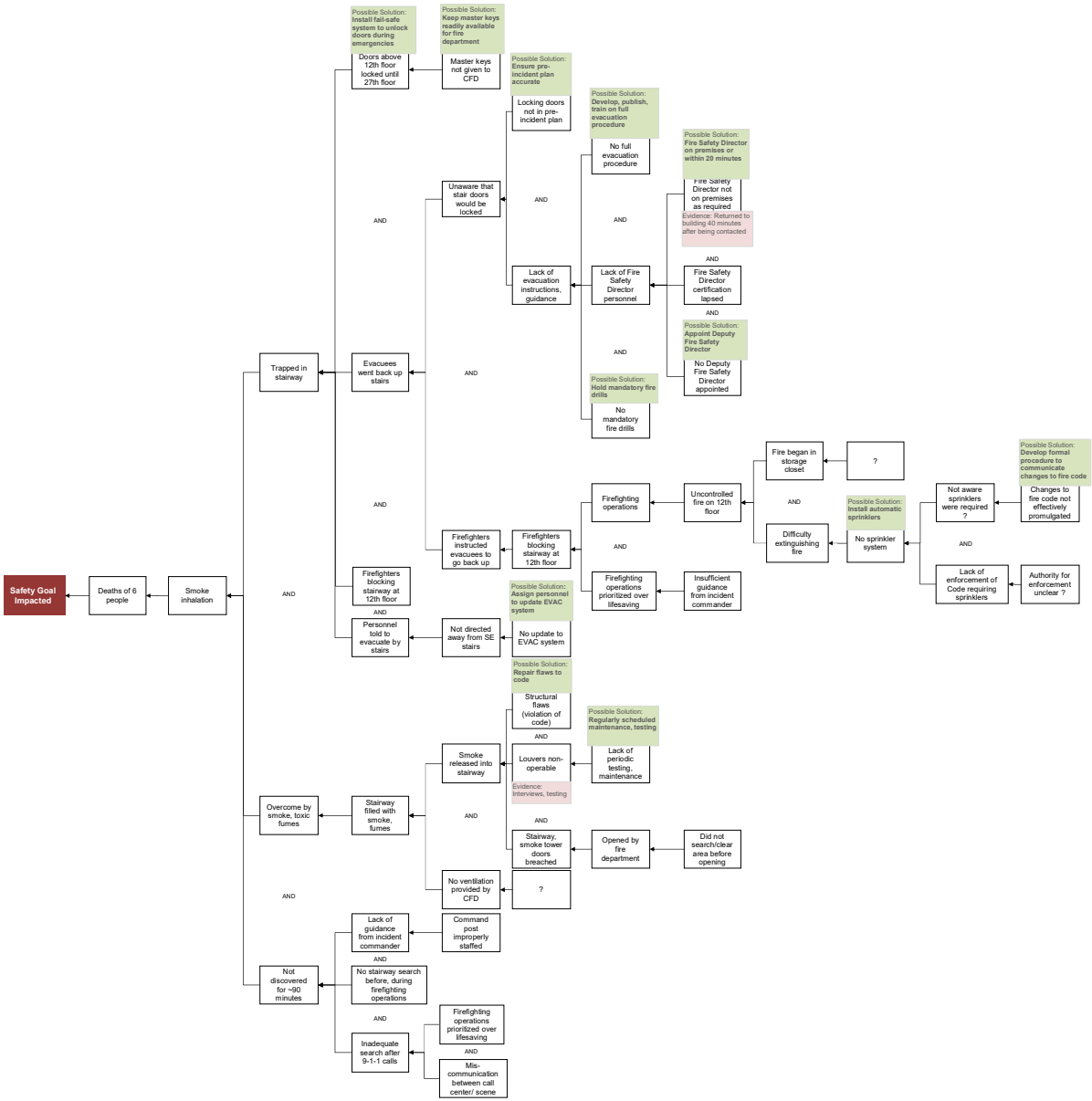
Safety Goal Impacted
Deaths of 6 people
Smoke inhalation
AND
Trapped in stairway
Overcome by smoke, toxic fumes
Not discovered for >90 minutes
AND
Evacuees went back up stairs
Firefighters blocking stairway at 12th floor
Personnel told to evacuate by stairs
Stairway filled with smoke, fumes
Lack of guidance from incident commander
No stairway search before, during firefighting operations
Inadequate search after 9-1-1 calls
Possible Solution: Install fail-safe system to unlock doors during emergencies
Doors above 12th floor locked until 27th floor
Possible Solution: Keep master keys readily available for fire department
Master keys not given to CFD
Unaware that stair doors would be locked
Possible Solution: Ensure pre-incident plan accurate
Locking doors not in pre-incident plan
Possible Solution: Develop, publish, train on full evacuation procedure
No full evacuation procedure
Possible Solution: Fire Safety Director on premises or within 20 minutes
Fire Safety Director not on premises as required
Evidence: Returned to building 40 minutes after being contacted
Lack of evacuation instructions, guidance
Lack of Fire Safety Director personnel
Fire Safety Director certification lapsed
Possible Solution: Appoint Deputy Fire Safety Director
No Deputy Fire Safety Director appointed
Possible Solution: Hold mandatory fire drills
No mandatory fire drills
Firefighters instructed evacuees to go back up
Firefighters blocking stairway at 12th floor
Firefighting operations
Uncontrolled fire on 12th floor
Fire began in storage closet
?
Difficulty extinguishing fire
Possible Solution: Install automatic sprinklers
No sprinkler system
Not aware sprinklers were required ?
Possible Solution: Develop formal procedure to communicate changes to fire code
Changes to fire code not effectively promulgated
Lack of enforcement of Code requiring sprinklers
Authority for enforcement unclear ?
Firefighting operations prioritized over lifesaving
Insufficient guidance from incident commander
Possible Solution: Assign personnel to update EVAC system
Not directed away from SE stairs
No update to EVAC system
Possible Solution: Repair flaws to code
Smoke released into stairway
Structural flaws (violation of code)
Louvers non-operable
Possible Solution: Regularly scheduled maintenance, testing
Lack of periodic testing, maintenance
Evidence: Interviews, testing
Stairway, smoke tower doors breached
Opened by fire department
Did not search/clear area before opening
No ventilation provided by CFD
?
Command post improperly staffed
Firefighting operations prioritized over lifesaving
Mis-communication between call center/ scene