



Get the Ball Rolling

by Cub Marion

In problem solving, an individual or team can get stuck. Some call this “analysis paralysis”. This concept can manifest itself during the course of a problem solving event, business project, action plan development, etc. People in the effort feel compelled to use every tool available in the problem solving/analysis phase, believing this is the intent of the methodology. Actually, a more effective and efficient use of any problem solving methodology is to use the necessary tools to get the job done, rather than “over-tooling” the analysis. If you think about it, this falls into one of the 7 wastes taught in Lean training.

Having an in depth understanding of problem solving tools allows the individual or team to leverage the right tool at the right time; and provides the necessary information to make a decision swiftly. Keep in mind, searching for the perfect solution will prolong the existence of the problem being addressed. Nothing will be improved until action is taken. Thus, get the ball rolling...take action. Leveraging the knowledge and experience of the team members, coupled with the practical application of the right tools, will certainly provide a directionally correct course of action. This places the team in a position to observe the performance of the solution and determine if any adjustments need to be made. Now you are making progress. Make the appropriate adjustments, control the inputs, and you and the team, are well positioned for sustainable gain.