



THE ELEMENTS OF GREAT MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SERIES

HOW TO BUILD EXPERTISE IN MAINTENANCE

Written for: New hires, transfers from other departments, Old timers for a laugh and a reminder

This month we welcome guest contributor, Rhonda Parrish.

As a homeschool mother of more than 19 years, I am always on the hunt for a fresh approach to present new topics or material. Joel Levitt's The Elements of Great Maintenance Management Series does exactly that. The book series is written in a graphic novel format making it much more appealing than a typical text. I am not an experienced maintenance or reliability professional, in fact, I struggle to answer the question often asked, "What exactly does Russ do?" However, after reading through several books in Joel's series, I feel much more informed. They are a quick and entertaining read and will definitely have appeal for a younger workforce.

The books could easily be used to train new hires on the shop floor; especially those who are new to a manufacturing environment. However, I also see benefit in having those not on the shop floor but adjacent to the manufacturing activities read through some of the titles. For example, a new IT hire might benefit from reading CMMS - Friend or Foe. Those in the accounting loop might benefit from this one, as well.

Many of the concepts presented may already be in place on the shop floor but the books in this series can remind the employees of why those policies are in place - the importance of lubrication, work orders, preventative maintenance and quality of work. The book series can also be used when management feels like a change in policy is needed. The stories told in the books help to illustrate all sides of the issues and portray the knowledge, input and critique by maintenance employees as a valuable asset.

The drawings are not technical, however, they enhance the story and the information. In The Quest for Defect Elimination, the story includes a guru and super heroes! Although animated and in story form, the information presented is easy to understand and thorough.



One of the hidden benefits in this series of books is the exposure to the myriad of differing careers available in manufacturing. Analytics, Planning, Reliability Engineers, Quality Controller, Procurement - the list of jobs introduced or discussed in this series is extensive. Anyone who counsels or works with high school aged or young adult students would find the information in these books valuable for career counseling but also to solidify the reason for the students' academic studies.

The Battle For Reliability - Fundamentals Win the Day does an excellent job of taking concepts learned in a science class and showing real world applications by using avatars in its illustrations. The importance of understanding things like friction, heat, torque and vibration in a manufacturing plant helps bring to life vague textbook illustrations. It also explains the importance a solid reliability program can have in a plant.

CMMS - Friend or Foe does an excellent job of explaining the importance of accurate data in any computerized system. As industry becomes more and more reliant on AI and IoT, workers will need to understand the correlation between the information they enter into the system and how it is used to make larger scale decisions. This book would be a great read for any student pursuing an IT type career as it explains how the “real world” is impacted by technology, it even includes a brief history of CMMS starting in 1956!

Maintenance Planning does a great job of defining entropy and explaining how reliable and accurate planning will help to overcome it. Lots of great information on what a planners job actually entails for those considering that as a career. It also includes a fun exercise using Legos that helps to illustrate how important having a plan is to a project’s success.

The Small Improvement Projects (SIP) Playbook is less of a graphic novel and more of a workbook. It ties together information from the entire series. Application of the information presented and learned in the series is the focus but not in a huge overwhelming way. It lays

out how to use the SIP method and not a firehose to make the needed changes. Material on presentations - both verbal and written are a great resource. Teamwork and team building are also valuable topics covered.

Other books in the series include Lubrication: The Key to Machine Immortality , Quality is not an Accident - The Challenge of Managing Maintenance Quality , Stories of PM - A Comprehensive Primer of Preventative Maintenance and The Quest for Defect Elimination.

This series of books would be an asset to any shop floor, and we appreciate Joel gifting us these copies so I could learn more about what it is that Russ does every day.