The objective of the Significant Event Elimination Program (SEE) is to eliminate the recurrence of events which have had a significant impact on the safe or economic operation of a plant, and to ensure that measures are taken to prevent similar events on similar equipment. As such, the SEE program is an important part of a Continuous Improvement Program.

SEE includes a method to prioritize plant events, including “near misses,” based upon their safety, environmental, health, and production impact. The prioritization addresses both one-time events and repetitive events. The highest priority events are then analyzed using root cause failure analysis (RCFA), reliability-centered maintenance (RCM), and/or other appropriate analysis tools. The analysis provides recommendations that can be used to prevent, inhibit, predict, or find future problems, thereby improving the safety, environmental, and/or economic operation of the plant.

The SEE process includes two major steps: Event Prioritization (including ongoing data collection and analysis), and Event Analysis. This paper presents these steps, and describes the information and resource requirements for their successful implementation.