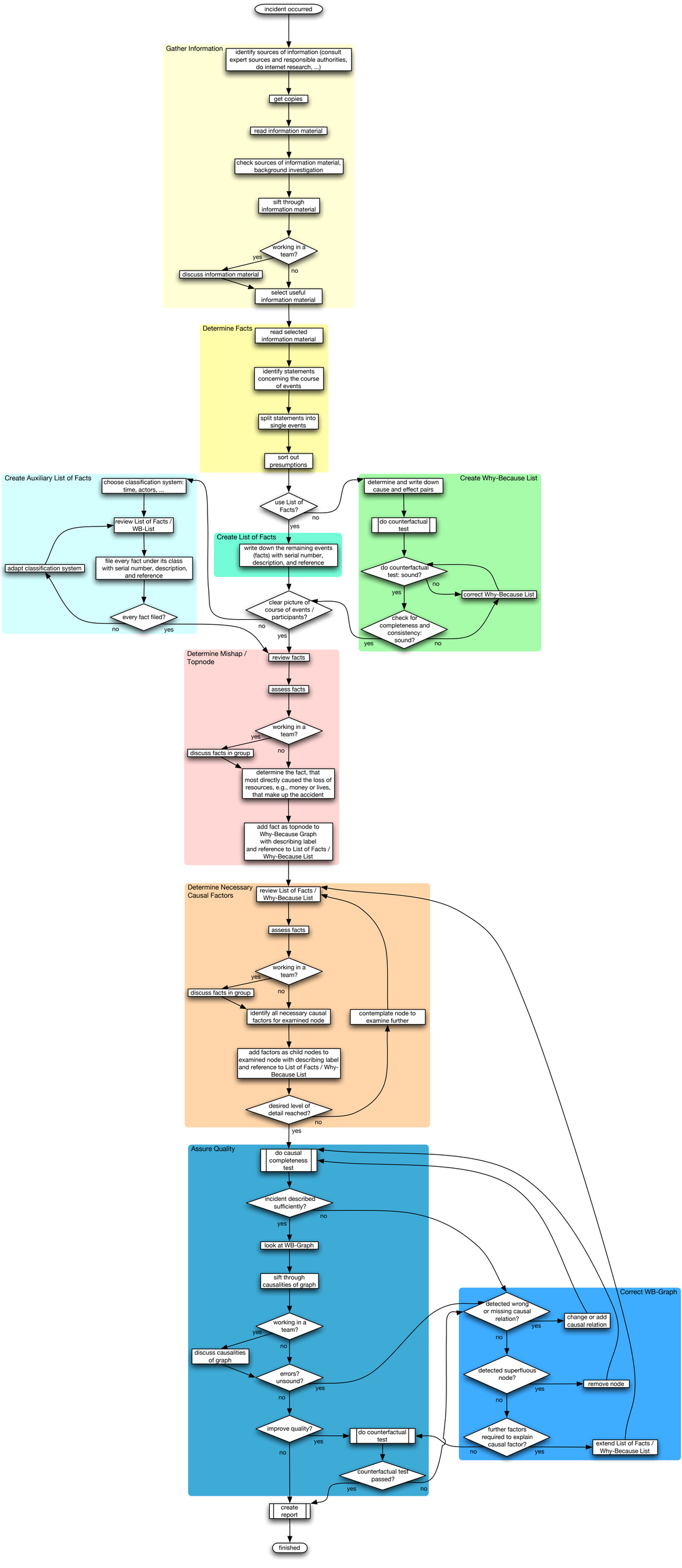
incident occurred
Gather Information
identify sources of information (consult expert sources and responsible authorities, do internet research, ...)
get copies
read information material
check sources of information material, background investigation
sift through information material
working in a team?
yes
no
discuss information material
select useful information material
Determine Facts
read selected information material
identify statements concerning the course of events
split statements into single events
sort out presumptions
Create Auxiliary List of Facts
choose classification system: time, actors, ...
review List of Facts / WB-List
file every fact under its class with serial number, description, and reference
adapt classification system
every fact filed?
no
yes
use List of Facts?
no
yes
Create List of Facts
write down the remaining events (facts) with serial number, description, and reference
clear picture of course of events / participants?
no
yes
Create Why-Because List
determine and write down cause and effect pairs
do counterfactual test
do counterfactual test: sound?
no
yes
correct Why-Because List
check for completeness and consistency: sound?
yes
no
Determine Mishap / Topnode
review facts
assess facts
working in a team?
yes
no
discuss facts in group
determine the fact, that most directly caused the loss of resources, e.g., money or lives, that make up the accident
add fact as topnode to Why-Because Graph with describing label and reference to List of Facts / Why-Because List
Determine Necessary Causal Factors
review List of Facts / Why-Because List
assess facts
working in a team?
yes
no
discuss facts in group
identify all necessary causal factors for examined node
contemplate node to examine further
add factors as child nodes to examined node with describing label and reference to List of Facts / Why-Because List
desired level of detail reached?
no
yes
Assure Quality
do causal completeness test
incident described sufficiently?
no
yes
look at WB-Graph
sift through causalities of graph
working in a team?
yes
no
discuss causalities of graph
errors? unsound?
yes
no
improve quality?
yes
no
do counterfactual test
counterfactual test passed?
yes
no
Correct WB-Graph
detected wrong or missing causal relation?
yes
change or add causal relation
no
detected superfluous node?
yes
remove node
no
further factors required to explain causal factor?
no
yes
extend List of Facts / Why-Because List
create report
finished