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What's the Difference?

Preventative, predictive, proactive, so what's the difference? Your facility practices may fall into one, none, or more than one of these categories, but do you have the best approach for your application?

Preventative maintenance is about allowing for time-based maintenance to prevent equipment failures. This includes statistical failure data, routine inspection and condition monitoring, basic filter and lube care, and calibrations.

Predictive maintenance is about knowing the machinery condition at all times. A good predictive maintenance program uses the application of vibration, oil, infrared, ultrasonic, motor current, and trending practices to ensure maximum reliability and uptime. Comprehensive communication between maintenance and technologies, along with training, planning, and eliminating root causes are the major areas of focus in applying a predictive maintenance aspect of reliability.

Proactive maintenance is considered the ultimate step in reliability. A proactive maintenance program seeks the root cause of issues, has active communication with departments, and employs various methods and tools, which may include those used for preventative or predictive maintenance, for extending equipment life and eliminating the cause of failure. Proactive maintenance is more a mindset than a methodology. It is more about eliminating defects that result in the failures that require maintenance.

Source: *Making Common Sense Common Practice* by Ron Moore

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