What is Fast Tracking?

Fast tracking involves performing activities in parallel that are ideally sequenced in series. Changing the activity relationship from series to parallel often results in increased risk and subsequent rework. Fast tracking cannot be done in mandatory dependencies. It can only be done in the case of discretionary relation dependency.

Do you know?

Discretionary dependencies are dependencies that can be modified if needed. For example, you have to lay a new wall to wall carpet and paint the room. It is a best practice to paint first and then lay the carpet. However, if you are pressed for time and the carpet person is available before the painter, it is possible to break this dependency, albeit with a penalty in higher risk, cost, and effort, because once the painting effort starts, paint may spill onto the carpet. Here, in order to mitigate the risk, you will have to cover the carpet which takes time and cost money.

What are Crashing Techniques?

Crashing techniques involve the extended use of project human resources to compress the schedule. This can be done either by adding additional resources to the project or by putting existing resources on overtime. Both of these crashing techniques, while theoretically reducing or compressing the project schedule, frequently results in increased risk and cost.

Fast tracking and crashing both bypass best practices to accelerate the schedule. Therefore, both options will introduce additional risk into the project. Be sure to assess the risk and advise the stakeholder requesting the compressed schedule.