11-2-1998

DDASaccident016

Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database

AID

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 22/01/2004
Accident time: not recorded
Where it occurred: Sabie area, Maputo Province
Primary cause: Unavoidable (?)
Class: Vegetation removal accident
ID original source: none
Organisation: [Name removed]
Mine/device: PMN AP blast
Date record created: 12/01/2004
No of victims: 1

Accident number: 16
Accident Date: 02/11/1998
Country: Mozambique
Secondary cause: Other (?)
Date of main report: [No date recorded]
Name of source: Various/CND/IND
Ground condition: not recorded
Date last modified: 12/01/2004
No of documents: 2

Map details

Longitude:
Latitude:
Alt. coord. system:
Coordinates fixed by:
Map east:
Map north:
Map scale: not recorded
Map series:
Map edition:
Map sheet:

Accident Notes

no independent investigation available (?)
mechanical follow-up (?)
vegetation clearance problem (?)
inadequate investigation (?)
**Accident report**

The researcher made a field visit to the commercial company's base camp (32°15.60E, 25°33.93S) on 8th November 1988. Senior staff were absent but a male nurse on site (French) spoke of two recent accidents. The nurse refused to be identified. The researcher arranged to return to speak to a senior officer but found the HQ empty at the appointed time.

The nurse described this accident saying that a deminer was leaning forward to cut vegetation and put his foot on a mine. He suffered "traumatic chest injuries" when the front of his foot was driven into his chest. He died in the field before evacuation. The nurse claimed that an autopsy report was with the Country MAC [no one there knew of it] and that the mine was a Gyata-64 (AP blast, 210g TNT). Apparently the accident occurred when the victim was following a “mine-clearance machine” [unspecified].

The demining group issue short protective aprons [not seen] and the victim should have been wearing one. The nurse did not know whether he was [from the injuries it seems that he was not].

The nurse said that the prodders they used were at least 50cm long.

An Ebinger sign on the demining group's trucks implied that they were using Ebinger detectors (as they were known to have done in other accidents).

**Victim Report**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victim number: 28</th>
<th>Name: [Name removed]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age:</td>
<td>Gender: Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status: deminer</td>
<td>Fit for work: DECEASED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compensation: not made available</td>
<td>Time to hospital: not recorded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection issued: Not recorded</td>
<td>Protection used: not recorded</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary of injuries:**

INJURIES
severe Chest
AMPUTATION/LOSS
Leg Below knee
FATAL
COMMENT
No medical report was made available.

**Analysis**

The primary cause of this accident is listed as "Other" because there is insufficient detail to determine the failings that occurred.

The demining group were recent arrivals in Mozambique. The organisation was poorly thought of in the industry and their accident record in Mozambique was very poor - see also accident records for 14th September and 27th March 1998.
Their knowledge of demining and its risks appeared demonstrably weak. For this reason the researcher accepts the argument of more experienced workers about the identity of the mine involved in this accident (see Related papers).

The demining group’s record eventually led to them being expelled from the country by the country MAC.

**Related papers**

No Country MAC report was made available.

No other documents were made available.

In an interview with professional commercial deminers from two Southern African demining companies which work in the area, both were in no doubt that the mine had been wrongly identified. The Gyata-64 closely resembles the PMN and many people mistake them for each other. Both informants believed that Gyata-64 mines were not used in the area, so the mine was a PMN.