

11-16-1995

DDASaccident034

Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database
AID

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

| | |
|---|--|
| Report date: 11/03/2004 | Accident number: 34 |
| Accident time: 06:50 | Accident Date: 16/11/1995 |
| Where it occurred: Guiua, Inhambane Province | Country: Mozambique |
| Primary cause: Management/control inadequacy (?) | Secondary cause: Victim inattention (?) |
| Class: Handling accident | Date of main report: 20/11/1995 |
| ID original source: MC/TL | Name of source: ADP |
| Organisation: [Name removed] | |
| Mine/device: Fuze | Ground condition: not applicable |
| Date record created: 22/01/2004 | Date last modified: 22/01/2004 |
| No of victims: 1 | 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: |
| Map name: | |

Accident Notes

inadequate training (?)
protective equipment not worn (?)
no independent investigation available (?)
inconsistent statements (?)
inadequate investigation (?)

Accident report

An internal investigation was carried out by Technical Advisors to the demining group. Their report was made available and the following summarises its content. They reported that the victim was injured by an anti-tank mine fuse close to his "residence" and suffered "light shrapnel injuries to his upper groin area".

The victim lived 400 metres from the working area. While walking home from work he found an MVZ57 fuse [believed to be an MV-5 fuse]. He took it home for safekeeping. Before work the next morning he was examining it on a concrete table outside his home when he accidentally dropped it 20cm onto the table and it detonated. He contacted the platoon medic by radio and asked for assistance.

He sustained light shrapnel injuries to the upper right groin area and minor lacerations to the left hand. X-rays indicated he had five small pieces of shrapnel in his lower bowel area but there was no plan to remove them. After arrival at Inhambane Hospital, the victim waited four hours for surgery to remove some fragments. He remained in hospital one day.

Recommendations

No action was recommended because the SOPs did not cover this kind of accident and the victim "clearly acted from the best of motives though with limited manual dexterity".

Victim Report

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Victim number: 50 | Name: [Name removed] |
| Age: | Gender: Male |
| Status: supervisory | Fit for work: yes |
| Compensation: not made available | Time to hospital: not recorded |
| Protection issued: Safety spectacles | Protection used: none |

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

minor Arm

minor Body

minor Hand

COMMENT

See medical report.

Medical report

The medic reported that the victim had found a fuse two days before. While cleaning it to find if it was active he dropped it on the ground where it exploded. He "has minor bruises on the left arm and deep wounds on the left part of the lower trunk and on the right pelvic cavity. ...an x-ray of the lower body (shows) 11 (eleven) foreign objects (splinters)... claims to have minor pains."

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a "*Management/control inadequacy*" because the victim was the senior staff on site and his breach was not corrected or criticised by the demining group senior Technical Advisor who investigated the accident.

Strictly speaking, this may be classed as an "accident" rather than an "accident". With the victim living so close to the mined area and undertaking demining work while off-duty, the distinction is blurred. The secondary cause is listed as "*Victim inattention*" because it seems that the Victim handled the fuze clumsily.

The device involved was recorded as an MVZ-57 fuse. I have recorded it as an MV-5 because it fits the description and I cannot identify an MVZ-57 alternative.

Related papers

A statement by the victim *very closely* matched the words used in the investigator's report.