

12-16-1994

DDASaccident043

Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database
AID

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 11/03/2004	Accident number: 43
Accident time: 07:30	Accident Date: 16/12/1994
Where it occurred: Sabie, Maputo Province	Country: Mozambique
Primary cause: Management/control inadequacy (?)	Secondary cause: Inadequate training (?)
Class: Survey accident	Date of main report: [No date recorded]
ID original source: ADP-1	Name of source: ADP- letter (no formal report)
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: not recorded	Ground condition: not recorded
Date record created: 22/01/2004	Date last modified: 22/01/2004
No of victims: 2	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

safety distances ignored (?)
inadequate training (?)
inadequate investigation (?)
no independent investigation available (?)

Accident report

No accident report was on record at the organisation's office or the Country MAC: see Related papers.

Victim Report

Victim number: 62	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: surveyor	Fit for work: yes
Compensation: US\$2,310	Time to hospital: not recorded
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: not recorded

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

severe Genitals

AMPUTATION/LOSS

Leg Below knee

Fingers

COMMENT

No medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 61	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: surveyor	Fit for work: DECEASED
Compensation: US\$6,600	Time to hospital: not recorded
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: not recorded

Summary of injuries:

FATAL

COMMENT

No medical report was made available. Inferred severe head and body injuries. Victim died later in hospital.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a "*Management/control inadequacy*" because the programme management had sent the victims to carry out a survey without first devising an SOP to limit their risk. The victims cannot have been adequately trained.

The failure to keep a record of the accident was a further management failing.

Related papers

A letter was on file at the UN programme office. From the Deputy Director Demining, UNOHAC, to the Chief Administration Officer, it told of a demining accident at Sabie. It stated that two deminers were "seriously injured". One later died in the central hospital. The other lost "one leg and the fingers of one hand".

A memo on the accident dated 6th January 1995 mentioned an investigation into the accident carried out by a UN TA [no copy was on file]. That investigation stated that Victim No.1 died in Maputo Central Hospital. Victim No.2 lost "one leg and fingers on his left hand". The memo stated that "the minefield survey is the most dangerous part of demining operations" and recommended suspension of surveying operations until SOPs had been "developed". No description of the accident was given and no blame was attributed.

Victim No.2 was interviewed on 12th November 1998 at the demining group's Head Office where he was working as a logistical assistant in the stores. The fingers of his left hand had been amputated at the first knuckle but he had retained use of the hand. He also suffered genital damage (unspecified).

He declined to talk about the accident. He spent one month in hospital and a further six months off sick before returning to work. He suffered no lung injury. He showed special interest in genital protection [and raised the issue]. He expressed fears for the future and said he would like to be trained in logistics skills and English so that he could get a job at the end of the UN supported programme.