

9-29-2000

DDASaccident437

Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database
AID

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 16/03/2007	Accident number: 437
Accident time: 10:00	Accident Date: 29/09/2000
Where it occurred: State Road D7, verge, Dubosevica, Draz, OB	Country: Croatia
Primary cause: Other (?)	Secondary cause: Other (?)
Class: Vegetation removal accident	Date of main report: Not recorded
ID original source: None	Name of source: CROMAC
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: Ordnance	Ground condition: ditch/channel/trench route (verge)
Date record created: 16/03/2007	Date last modified: 16/03/2007
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 1

Map details

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

Accident Notes

inadequate investigation (?)

no independent investigation available (?)

vegetation clearance problem (?)

Accident report

In Croatia, demining accidents are investigated by the police and the reports are not made available to the public. In response to a request, the country MAC made available a spreadsheet record of accidents in November 2006. The spreadsheet data is so summarised that it is not possible to tell much about the circumstances surrounding the accident, but some detail may still be of use. In this example, the activity at the time of the accident is identified, and some of the injuries recorded.

In this case “while mine clearing procedure, in one canal by the state road D-7 was a vegetation burn and in other canal deminers from [Name excised] demining company were working. [The Victim] was hit in the back and legs while checking the fire.”

The “protection vests of [Name excised] demining company are protected only on a front side, still no information on what exactly had exploded”.

If possible, this record will be extended with further detail at a later date.

Victim Report

Victim number: 584	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: not known
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not recorded
Protection issued: Frontal apron	Protection used: Frontal apron

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES: severe Back; severe Legs

COMMENT: "Heavy body injuries": No medical report was made available.

Analysis

Without more detail it is not possible to assign a Classification or a Cause to this accident.

This is the only accident in the database where a deminer wearing frontal protection suffered severe back injury and might have befitting if all-around body protection had been made available. the device was not identified but was obviously susceptible to detonation in a roadside verge fire. The use of fire to remove undergrowth prior to clearance is not uncommon, and there may be a lesson to learn about not approaching the burning area until the fire has burned out, especially when unstable devices may be present.