

10-3-2006

DDASaccident479

Database of Demining Accidents
DDAS

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 17/01/2008	Accident number: 479
Accident time: 10:20	Accident Date: 03/10/2006
Where it occurred: IM No.003, Wadi Araba, Aqaba	Country: Jordan
Primary cause: Unavoidable (?)	Secondary cause: Unavoidable (?)
Class: Vegetation removal accident	Date of main report: 03/10/2006
ID original source: S:67:03/10/06	Name of source: JES
Organisation: [Name removed]	Ground condition: bushes/scrub dry/dusty hard
Mine/device: PRB M35 AP blast	Date last modified: 17/01/2008
Date record created: 17/01/2008	No of documents: 2
No of victims: 1	

Map details

Longitude:	Latitude:
Alt. coord. system:	Coordinates fixed by: GPS
Map east: E 29.54458	Map north: N 34.977028
Map scale:	Map series:
Map edition:	Map sheet:
Map name:	

Accident Notes

long handtool may have reduced injury (?)
metal-detector not used (?)
no independent investigation available (?)
non injurious accident (?)
use of rake (?)
vegetation clearance problem (?)

Accident report

The report of this accident was made available in November 2007 as a PDF file. Its conversion to a text file for editing means that some of the formatting has been lost. The substance of the report is reproduced below, edited for anonymity. The original PDF file is held on record.

INCIDENT REPORT

GRID REF: N 34.977028: E 29.54458

ISRAELI MINEFIELD NO - 003

MINEFIELD TASK ID - S 67

SECTOR – SOUTH, PLACE – AQABA, REGION - WADI ARABA

INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY – [Demining Group programme Manager]

SECTION COMMANDER and TEAM LEADER: [Names removed]

TEAM: SITE PREPARATION TEAM

TIME OF ACCIDENT: 10:20 AM

DATE OF ACCIDENT: 3 OCTOBER 2006

NATURE OF INJURY: NIL

TYPE OF MINE: M-35 BELGUIM ANTI PERS MINE

IMSMA DETAILED REPORT

The incident occurred while raking with a heavy rake. The Team Leader was preparing the start lane of the minefield (003) when he initiated a mine via the attached anchor wire. He did this by pulling vegetation that was connected to the wire [presumably pulling with the rake]. The mine was approximately 1cm deep and set in hard baked soil. The mine was a [PRB] M-35 AP blast mine. The Victim was wearing Vest and Goggles at the time of the accident.

The Team Leader suffered no injury and no equipment was damaged in the accident. The Team Leader was at the Section Medical Point two minutes after the accident and required no treatment.

The crater left by the blast was approximately 15cm deep and 30cm wide.

The ground at the accident site was described as hard and mixed. The weather at the time was clear and hot. The vegetation was described as heavy bush. [“Heavy bush” in a desert environment may not be the same as in more temperate areas: see the photograph of the site below.]



[The blue topped pegs indicate where mines were found. The peg just in front of the crossed red-topped sticks is the seat of initiation.]

The demining team had been working for 90 days. They had been at the site for nine days and at this task for one day. Work had been ongoing at the Task for four hours before the accident.

The investigation was conducted by [Demining group Programme Manager]. The report was compiled/translated by the [Demining group Programme Manager]. The printed date was 03/10/2006.

Attachments included statements and photographs.

Victim Report

Victim number: 639	Name: [Name removed]
Age: 42	Gender: Male
Status: supervisory	Fit for work: yes
Compensation: Not applicable	Time to hospital: Not applicable
Protection issued: Frontal apron Goggles	Protection used: Frontal apron, Goggles

Summary of injuries:

COMMENT: Photographs of the Victim showed no injuries to face, hands and arms. Non-injurious accident.

STATEMENTS

Statement 1: Global TA

Date: 3 Oct 2006

At 10:20 I heard a mine blast in one of the lanes, I was 25 meters away inspecting the Mine Wolf's work. I walked in the direction of the blast and saw [the Victim] walking away from his lane. He was uninjured and told me that the connecting wire to the mine had got caught in vegetation that he was removing. This action initiated the mine. I sent him to the medic to get checked and stop the section working.

The NPA programme manager was informed at 10:45.

Signed.

Statement 2: the Victim

Date: 3 Oct 2006

I was preparing a lane for a deminer to start work in and noted that the mine connection wire had been cut or had broken. I cut the vegetation to the front of the base stick and was in the process of removing it when the mine shifted. I concluded that the vegetation was tangled in the wire that was still connected to the mine and the weight of hardened soil on top of the mine caused it to detonate.

I am free from injury and I am able to continue working.

The international TA [Name removed] was at the site and told me to go the medical point for a check up. He placed the deputy team leader [Name removed] in charge of closing the minefield down.

Signed and dated 4th October 2006

Statement 3: Deputy Team Leader

Date: 3 Oct 2006

I was conducting a training course for three new deminers in the control point for the Marina minefields when the [Demining group] international TA [Name removed] called me and asked me to close down the minefield as the team leader had set off a mine and need to be checked by the medic. I closed all the lanes and took the statistics for the day.

Statement 4: Medic

Date: 10 Oct 2006

I was contacted by Radio by the team leader [the Victim] at 10:22 and was told by him that he had set a mine off but was uninjured. He walked to the control point where I gave him a brief check-up, he was without injury. But I asked him to sit and drink some water and relax.

Statement 5: Sector Administrator

Date: 10 Oct 2006

I was told by the TA [Name removed] to inform the Operation Room Manager that there had been a mine blast (without injury) and that that he was to come to the site and conduct and accident investigation.

Analysis

The primary and secondary causes of this accident are listed as “Unavoidable” because it seems that the Victim was working according to SOPs when the accident occurred. The mines in this minefield were linked together with wire (not tripwire) in order to make their recovery easier. It seems that the wire had broken and somehow become entangled in undergrowth which the Team Leader had cut and was removing with a rake.

The demining group had put in place the use of a long tool (rake) that kept the Victim far enough away from a blast to avoid serious injury. In this case, the distance provided protection which, coupled with the PPE, prevented any injury.