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Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 27/01/2008	Accident number: 516
Accident time: Not made available	Accident Date: 11/08/2003
Where it occurred: Not made available	Country: Iraq
Primary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)	Secondary cause: Management/control inadequacy (?)
Class: Other	Date of main report: Not made available
ID original source: None	Name of source: [Name removed]
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: Valmara 69 AP Bfrag	Ground condition: not recorded
Date record created:	Date last modified: 27/01/2008
No of victims: 4	No of documents: 1

Map details

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

Accident Notes

inadequate investigation (?)
mine/device found in "cleared" area (?)
safety distances ignored (?)
visor not worn or worn raised (?)

Accident report

Details of this accident have been withheld by the demining NGO that employed the Victim. A spreadsheet including the Victim's name and very brief details of the accident was made available in 2007. Some details can be inferred from the information released. For example, the injuries imply that the victims were not wearing PPE, or not wearing it in the correct manner.

This entry will be expanded if access to the report of the investigation is made available in future.

The spreadsheet data is reproduced below, edited for anonymity.

“Date and country. [Names of four Victims removed] - deminers

[Victim No.1] Fragmentation injuries, also suffered traumatic amputation of right hand.

[Victim No.2] Fragmentation injuries in face, eyes and legs.

During post clearance phase Mine accident - V69 explosion.

Four victims are listed and two summaries of injury, from which it is inferred that the last two listed victims suffered only minor injuries.

Victim Report

Victim number: 675	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: not known
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not made available
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: Not made available

Summary of injuries:

AMPUTATION/LOSS: Hand

COMMENT: "Fragmentation injuries": No medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 676	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: not known
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not made available
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: Not made available

Summary of injuries:

severe Eyes

severe Face

severe Legs

COMMENT: No medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 677	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: presumed
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not made available
Protection issued:	Protection used: Not made available

Summary of injuries:

COMMENT: Minor injuries: No medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 678	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: presumed
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not made available
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: Not made available

Summary of injuries:

COMMENT: Minor injuries: No medical report was made available.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a "Field control inadequacy" because the accident occurred in the "post-clearance" phase so the mine had either been missed during clearance, or was outside (but close to) the cleared area, so implying inadequate survey. The fact that four deminers were injured implies that the Field controllers believed they were in a safe area, or that safety distances were being ignored. The spread of injuries indicates that protective visors were not being used.

The secondary cause is listed as a "Management control inadequacy" because the management of the demining group declined to make the accident details available. Although this is sometimes done to protect the Victims, in this case the Victims' names were among the limited detail made available. It is possible that the managers have chosen to avoid transparency because they are afraid that the circumstances of the accident would reflect badly on their organisation.