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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: 524
Accident time: Not made available	Accident Date: 07/11/2005
Where it occurred: Not made available	Country: Iraq
Primary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)	Secondary cause: Management/control inadequacy (?)
Class: Excavation accident	Date of main report: Not made available
ID original source: None	Name of source: [Name removed]
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: AP blast (unrecorded)	Ground condition: not recorded
Date record created:	Date last modified: 27/01/2008
No of victims: 1	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 (?)

squatting/kneeling to excavate (?)

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 severe facial injury indicates that a visor was not worn by the Victim.

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. [Name removed] - Deminer - multiple fractures to facial skeleton, collapsed right eye.

Mine accident - deminer found electronic indication of mine and was prodding to clear soil when mine detonated.”

Victim Report

Victim number: 691	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 Face

AMPUTATION/LOSS: Eye

COMMENT: No Medical report was made available.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a “Field control inadequacy” because the Victim was working with his visor raised (or not worn) and his error was not corrected.

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 Victim’s name was 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.