

3-22-2008

DDASaccident717

Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database
AID

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 08/07/2011	Accident number: 717
Accident time: Not recorded	Accident Date: 22/03/2008
Where it occurred: Masici Village, Nr Goradze	Country: Bosnia Herzegovina
Primary cause: Inadequate survey (?)	Secondary cause: Management/control inadequacy (?)
Class: Survey accident	Date of main report: 22/03/2008
ID original source: None	Name of source: Press
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: PROM-1 AP Bfrag	Ground condition: woodland
Date record created:	Date last modified: 08/07/2011
No of victims: 4	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 (?)
safety distances ignored (?)
inadequate training (?)

Accident report

The only report of this accident made available to date is from the press. Press reports have been collated and edited for anonymity, then reproduced below. Text in square brackets [] is editorial. This record will be revised if more information becomes available.

22nd March 2008 Bosnia Herzegovina

Novo Goražde / Kopači: A mine killed three and injured one person

3/22/2008 - Two policeman and a Civil Protection member killed

Novo Goražde / Kopači – Two police officers, [Victim No. 1] (33) and [Victim No.2] (34), and one member of the Novo Goražde Civil Protection, [Victim No. 3] (44), were killed in a landmine blast that happened in an unmarked minefield located 10 km away from Goražde towards Ustiprača.

All three victims were married, leaving behind six children.

The accident happened in Mašići village as police attempted to mark a landmine sighted by one of the villagers. On this occasion, they activated a tripwire-activated bounding anti-personnel fragmentation mine (PROM 1).

[Victim No. 4] from Mašići village that morning around 10 am sighted a landmine in the Mašići village woods by the main road. He immediately informed the police.

Police officers, [Victim No. 1] and [Victim No. 2], and a civil protection member, [Victim No. 3], joined by [Victim No. 4] went to the site in order to mark and secure the ground. According to the villagers, violent explosion was heard.

The mine victims are [Victim No. 3], Civil Protection Coordinator in the Novo Goražde Municipality, and police officers [Victim No. 1] and [Victim No. 2]. Their bodies were pulled out of the minefield in the afternoon by [International demining group], that had been removing landmines on a nearby demining site.

[International demining group], team leader, explains that "In the minefield we sighted a hole from mine detonation, while a metre away we detected a PROM 1, that was probably linked to another explosive device".

Villagers and family members were visiting the accident site throughout the day, in pain, and disbelieving the news about the tragedy.

One of the villagers, [Name removed], said, "BH Government, as well as FBiH and RS Governments seem not to put enough efforts in protecting young people's lives from the mine threat. And so we have young people being killed by mines and that is very sad."

Site inspection was conducted by [Name removed], a female prosecutor from Višegrad. The investigation should solve a number of riddles related to this accident, such as why the police was called to mark the ground and why the marking procedure was performed without appropriate precaution measures.

Source: BH radio 1

Bosnia mine blast kills two policemen, one worker

22 Mar 2008 12:23:17 GMT

Source: Reuters

SARAJEVO, March 22 (Reuters) - Two Bosnian police officers and one civil protection worker were killed in a landmine blast in eastern Bosnia on Saturday, the third such accident this week in an area still strewn with mines from the 1990s, Fena news agency reported.

The accident happened in Masici village as police were called to mark and secure the ground before the arrival of mine clearers, it said.

"The three men died when a landmine went off," local police told the news agency.

Three mine clearers were killed and one was seriously injured during mine removal operations on Monday and Tuesday in northern Bosnia.

Almost 4 percent of the Balkan country remains planted with landmines left over from the 1992-95 war, endangering the lives of 900,000 people, said Prime Minister Nikola Spiric, launching a new anti-mine campaign this week.

He said 480 people had been killed and almost 1,140 injured in mine accidents in Bosnia since the war ended.

Victim Report

Victim number: 906	Name: [Name removed]
Age: 33	Gender: Male
Status: other	Fit for work: DECEASED
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not made available
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: Not recorded

Summary of injuries: FATAL

COMMENT: No Medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 907	Name: [Name removed]
Age: 34	Gender: Male
Status: other	Fit for work: DECEASED
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not made available
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: Not recorded

Summary of injuries: FATAL

COMMENT: No Medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 908	Name: [Name removed]
Age: 44	Gender: Male
Status: other	Fit for work: DECEASED
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not made available
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: Not recorded

Summary of injuries: FATAL

COMMENT: No Medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 909	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: civilian	Fit for work: not known
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not made available
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: Not recorded

Summary of injuries: Not recorded. Fragmentation injuries.

COMMENT: No Medical report was made available.

Analysis

The Primary cause of this accident is listed as *Inadequate survey* because the victims went to the area to mark it as hazardous and entered it, presumably without knowing they were doing so. The secondary cause is listed as a *Management control inadequacy* because the Victims did not maintain a safe distance from each other and had no immediate medical or recovery backup available. It seems likely that the victims were not trained or equipped to conduct a survey and marking exercise safely.

This record will be revised if more information becomes available.