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DDASaccident786

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Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 22/07/2011	Accident number: 786
Accident time: 10:00	Accident Date: 15/04/2011
Where it occurred: Rakar Thom village, in Chbar Mon district's Rakar Thom commune, Kampong Speu Province	Country: Cambodia
Primary cause: Victim inattention (?)	Secondary cause: Management/control inadequacy (?)
Class: Handling accident	Date of main report: 15/04/2011
ID original source: None	Name of source: Press
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: Ordnance	Ground condition: residential/urban
Date record created:	Date last modified: 22/07/2011
No of victims: 3	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 (?)
inadequate training (?)
safety distances ignored (?)
protective equipment not worn (?)
visor not worn or worn raised (?)

Accident report

The only reports of this accident that have been made available to date are press reports. Their conversion into a DDAS file has led to some of the original formatting being lost. Text in square brackets [] is editorial. This record will be revised if more information becomes available.

The press reports are reproduced below, edited for anonymity.

15th April 2011 Cambodia

<http://australianetworknews.com/stories/201105/3217343.htm?desktop>

3 Cambodian de-miners killed in blast

Three Cambodian de-miners have been killed in a blast while handling an unexploded shell left over from decades of civil war.

The accident happened in the western province of Kampong Speu on Saturday when explosive powder in the ordnance was accidentally sparked.

[Name removed], director general of the [Demining group] says because of bad weather the men had been trying to store the shell to destroy the following day.

[Deminers die in explosion](#)

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/index.php/2011051649093/National-news/deminers-die-in-explosion.html>

Monday, 16 May 2011 15:02

THREE demining experts from the Cambodian Mine Action Centre were killed over the weekend in Kampong Speu province when several hundred shells being stored in a temporary location exploded, officials said yesterday.

The accident took place at about 10am on Saturday morning near a chicken coop located behind one of the CMAC staff members' homes in Rakar Thom village, in Chbar Mon district's Rakar Thom commune.

The de-miners had taken 372 unexploded 57mm Khmer Rouge-era shells from a [Demining group] warehouse in Kampong Speu province, planning to destroy them at a designated site this week [Demining group] director-general [Name removed] said yesterday.

"It was a holiday, so they took them to [Victim No.1]'s house to store temporarily in order to destroy them during the work week," he said.

"While they were arranging the UXOs at the place, some UXOs hit each other hard, causing a small fire," [Name removed] said, adding that the men attempted in vain to douse the flames with water from a clay urn. The fire caused other shells to explode, engulfing the men in flames.

"They were burnt all over their bodies," [Name removed] said.

[Victim No.1] a 47-year-old team leader for [Demining group], died from burns at his home. Supervisor [Victim No.2], 46, and staffer [Victim No.3], 40, both also died from burns after being taken to the provincial hospital.

All three were experienced staff who had worked for [Demining group] in Kampong Speu for many years, [Name removed] added. "This is a mistake because so far we have not allowed any [Demining group] staff or officers to store UXOs at their houses. To prevent this from happening again, we will strictly control both storage areas and how mines and UXOs are delivered for their destruction," he said.

[Name removed], provincial police chief, said the men's bodies had been returned to their

families.

Victim Report

Victim number: 972 **Name:** [Name removed]
Age: 47 **Gender:** Male
Status: supervisory **Fit for work:** DECEASED
Compensation: Not made available **Time to hospital:** Not made available
Protection issued: Frontal apron **Protection used:** None
Long visor
Summary of injuries: FATAL

COMMENT: No Medical report was made available. Victim died at the site from severe burns "all over the body".

Victim Report

Victim number: 973 **Name:** [Name removed]
Age: 46 **Gender:** Male
Status: supervisory **Fit for work:** DECEASED
Compensation: Not made available **Time to hospital:** Not made available
Protection issued: Frontal apron **Protection used:** None
Long visor
Summary of injuries: FATAL

COMMENT: No Medical report was made available. Victim died in hospital of severe burns "all over the body".

Victim Report

Victim number: 974 **Name:** [Name removed]
Age: 40 **Gender:** Male
Status: deminer **Fit for work:** DECEASED
Compensation: Not made available **Time to hospital:** Not made available
Protection issued: Frontal apron **Protection used:** None
Long visor
Summary of injuries: FATAL

COMMENT: No Medical report was made available. Victim died in hospital of severe burns "all over the body".

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as *Victim inattention* because it seems that the Victim's accidentally struck some of the ordnance together, so causing a spark that generated a fire. The secondary cause is listed as a *Management Control Inadequacy* because two of the Victims were supervisors and seem to have been inadequately trained to deal appropriately with the task in hand, or with the emergency created when a fire started. Appropriate training of supervisors is, of course, a management responsibility.

The "Inadequate investigation" listed under notes refers to the absence of a full accident report. The failure to wear PPE is presumed because the Victims were off duty and the injury spread implies an absence of PPE.