

10-25-2010

DDASaccident713

Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database
AID

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 07/07/2011	Accident number: 713
Accident time: Not recorded	Accident Date: 25/10/2010
Where it occurred: Yater, Nr Tyre	Country: Lebanon
Primary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)	Secondary cause: Other (?)
Class: Handling accident	Date of main report: 25/10/2010
ID original source: None	Name of source: Press
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: Submunition	Ground condition: agricultural (recent)
Date record created:	Date last modified: 07/07/2011
No of victims: 5	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 (?)

Accident report

No formal report of this accident has been made available. The following reports are derived from press reports, edited for anonymity. Text in square brackets [] is editorial. This record will be revised as more information becomes available.

25 October 2010

Sapper dead, four wounded by Lebanon cluster bomb

(AFP) – 16 hours ago

TYRE, Lebanon — A sapper was killed and at least four others were wounded on Monday when a cluster bomb exploded as their team cleared a mine-infested field in southern Lebanon, a security source said.

Two separate blasts went off in the same area as sappers from the Peace Generation Organisation for Demining, a Hezbollah-backed group, worked to clear olive and tobacco fields in Yater, near the coastal town of Tyre, the source told AFP.

The source, who requested anonymity, said the bomb had been left over from Shiite militant group Hezbollah's 2006 war against Israel that killed 1,200 Lebanese, mainly civilians, and 160 Israelis, mostly soldiers.

The United Nations estimates that Israel dropped more than four million cluster bomblets in southern Lebanon during the month-long summer war.

Ninety percent of the bomblets were dropped in the final 72 hours before an August 14 ceasefire, the United Nations says.

Around 40 percent of the munitions failed to detonate on impact, rendering them de facto anti-personnel mines.

The munitions have killed almost 50 people and maimed more than 300 civilians over the past four years, according to Lebanese army and UN figures. Most of the victims have been sappers, farmers or unsuspecting children, who mistake the shiny objects for toys.

The army says more than 197,000 cluster bomblets had been defused by 2009 but hundreds of thousands remain.

Cluster-bomb fragments kill mine clearer in south Lebanon

By Patrick Galey, Daily Star staff

Tuesday, October 26, 2010

BEIRUT: One mine clearer was killed and several others wounded Monday when cluster bomb fragments exploded amid removal work in south Lebanon.

The workers, employees of the Hizbullah-backed [Demining group], were injured in two blasts as they combed a cluster-bomb-infested tobacco field in Yater, 10 kilometers from the city of Tyre.

A well-informed security source told The Daily Star the men were conducting clearance operations, aiming to remove explosives dropped by Israel in its 2006 war with Hizbullah, when the explosions occurred.

“They were from a local organization working in Yater, clearing cluster bombs. So far we know there was one dead and several injured,” said the source. “All the men are Lebanese nationals.”

It was not clear how many people sustained injuries in the incident, although southern sources said three men were left in critical condition, with at least five fellow workers sustaining shrapnel wounds.

[Victim No.1], 20, from Maaroub, was identified as the deceased individual. He had been working for [Demining group] for three months in an area particularly heavily contaminated by Israeli munitions. An Israeli helicopter was shot down in Yater during the 33-day conflict.

[Victim No.1]’s colleagues [Victim No.2], [Victim No.3], [Victim No.4] and [Victim No.5] were identified as having been wounded.

[Name removed], former Lebanon country program manager for the [another demining NGO], said mine clearance workers operated amid the constant threat of death.

“[Demining group] is an upstanding organization, committed to good clearance. It’s always tragic when we hear that our fellow NGOs suffer such an accident,” [Name removed] said.

“[The Lebanese Army Mine Action Centre] will, I’m sure, conduct a thorough investigation. Accidents are very unfortunate. The fact that organizations are still working four years after contamination means these munitions are more combustible, more volatile and more dangerous to remove.”

Much of south Lebanon is still peppered with unexploded fragments of cluster bombs dropped by Israel during the last 72 hours of the 2006 conflict. The Israeli bombardment of south Lebanon saw more than 4 million high explosives dropped across fields, towns and roads, according to United Nations estimates. At least 40 percent of them failed to explode on impact, becoming de facto land mines.

[Victim No.1]’s death brings to 45 the number of people killed by leftover unexploded ordnance since 2006. – Additional reporting by [Name removed]

Read more:

http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=2&article_id=120804#ixzz13RQJ4IXx

(The Daily Star :: Lebanon News :: <http://www.dailystar.com.lb>)

Cluster bomb kills one, injures four in southern Lebanon

Oct 25, 2010, 16:43 GMT Beirut - A cluster bomb exploded Monday in southern Lebanon during a de-mining operation, killing one person and injuring four, according to a Lebanese security source.

The explosion took place as a team working for a Hezbollah-backed group, the [Demining group], were clearing a tobacco field in the southern village of Yater, the source said.

Victim Report

Victim number: 898	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	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: 899 **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 recorded

Summary of injuries:

COMMENT: Fragmentation injuries. No Medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 900 **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 recorded

Summary of injuries:

COMMENT: Fragmentation injuries. No Medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 901 **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 recorded

Summary of injuries:

COMMENT: Fragmentation injuries. No Medical report was made available.

Victim Report

Victim number: 902 **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 recorded

Summary of injuries:

COMMENT: Fragmentation injuries. No Medical report was made available.

Analysis

The activity at the time of the accident is inferred from the injuries and the number of Victims.

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a *Field control inadequacy* because safety distances were obviously ignored if five people were severely injured by a single device. The secondary cause is listed as *Other* because there is not enough information in the reports to determine what was happening at the time

The *Inadequate investigation* listed under notes refers to the absence of a full accident report. The Lebanon MACC has failed to make these widely available for several years in contravention of the requirements of the IMAS.

This record will be revised if more information is made available.