

DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 29/01/2008	Accident number: 532
Accident time: Not recorded	Accident Date: 15/08/2004
Where it occurred: MF011, Salahley Municipality, Nr Ina Guuxaa, Salahley District, Galbeed Province	Country: Somaliland
Primary cause: Unavoidable (?)	Secondary cause: Unavoidable (?)
Class: Excavation accident	Date of main report: 15/08/2004
ID original source: None	Name of source: [Name removed]
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: P2Mk2 P4Mk1 AP blast	Ground condition: dry/dusty grass/grazing area hard
Date record created:	Date last modified: 29/01/2008
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 1

Map details

Longitude:	Latitude:
Alt. coord. system: Lane A1 Box 2	Coordinates fixed by: GPS
Map east: E 4413220	Map north: N 0855613
Map scale:	Map series:
Map edition:	Map sheet:
Map name:	

Accident Notes

long handtool may have reduced injury (?)
metal-detector not used (?)
no independent investigation available (?)
non injurious accident (?)
standing to excavate (?)
use of rake (?)

Accident report

The report of this accident was made available in January 2008 as several separate files. In combining them, some of the original formatting has been lost. The substance of the report is reproduced below, edited for anonymity. The original files are held on record. Text in [] is editorial.

FROM: [Demining group]

DATE: 15-8-2004

TO: SMAC

SUBJECT: Mine Accident

On the 15th of August 2004 an accident occurred in MF011 in Guuxaa during clearance. [The Victim] was carrying out clearance using the rake method when he detonated a P-4 Anti Personnel Mine.



[The point of initiation.]

On investigation [Name removed] and I came to two possible conclusions as to how the accident happened.

Our first possible conclusion is that the deminer was putting too much pressure on the rake handle and then when pulling the rake towards himself detonated the mine.

But through our investigation he claims that he was letting the rake come back on its own weight.

Our second and most likely conclusion is that the mine may have been laid at a 45% angle in which case when the deminer pulls the rake towards himself the mine would detonate.



[The rake head with one tine broken off is shown above. This demining group uses a four tine rake that some have criticised as being more likely to initiate mines than the two tine rake because it requires more force to pull it through the ground.]

The minefield itself was laid in the mid-eighties which would give justification that mine could have been disturbed through vegetation, or, water standing or flowing will change the composition of the soil and cause the mine to move.

There is no definite explanation for how the accident has happened but due to what we do know the decision has been that all deminers will go through further correctional training under the supervision of [Name removed] and myself.

Signed: Technical Supervisor [Demining group]

From IMSMA report

[Data derived from forms with identifiers omitted.]

Date of report: 16th August 2004

Date of accident: 15th August 2004

Area ID: MF011

Place: Salahley Municipality, near Ina Guuxaa, Salahley District, Galbeed Province

GR: E 0855727; N 4413287; GPS;

Accident location: N 0855613; E 4413220; Lane A1 Box 2.

Accident occurred on pasture land less than 500m from nearest town.

Deminer [the Victim] was carrying out rake clearance on lane A1, Box 2. [He] explained that the mine detonated whilst he was pulling the rake back towards himself. There were no Injuries to [the Victim] or his protection equipment but the rake received minor damage. Through the investigation we came to the conclusion that the position of the mine was at an angle.

Mine involved: P4 AP blast



[The Victim's visor after the blast was unmarked.]

Victim Report

Victim number: 704	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: yes
Compensation: Not appropriate	Time to hospital: Not appropriate
Protection issued: Frontal apron Long visor	Protection used: Frontal apron, Long visor

Summary of injuries:

COMMENT: Non injurious accident.

Analysis

The primary and secondary causes of this accident are listed as "Unavoidable" because the investigators found that the Victim was probably working as trained and that the mine was in an unusual position.

The demining group had put in place the use of a long tool (rake) that kept the Victim far enough away from a blast to avoid injury, and his PPE was effective at protecting him from any risk remaining at that distance. Had he been using conventional short hand-tools, some injury would have been expected.

Stand-off (distance from the detonation) is the most effective PPE and the Rake Excavation system makes use of this. It is possible that the extreme length of the tool makes initiation of small AP blast mines with the Heavy rake more likely, but any increased risk of initiation is offset by the reduced chance of that initiation resulting in injury. The accident is a good example of balancing an effective demining process and PPE to result in a very low risk of injury.