Lessons learned from demining accidents in Bosnia and Herzegovina

BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA

51.2 km² TOTAL AREA
3.5 MILLION OF RESIDENTS
8,379 MINE VICTIMS /
1751 AFTER THE WAR

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SURVIVED IN WAR – SUFFERED IN PEACE
people who love and know their job

STATISTICS FOR BiH 1997-2016
- 79 demining accidents,
- 122 casualties of which:
  - 50 deaths,
  - 39 with severe injuries,
  - 33 with minor injuries.
AP mine PROM -1 has always been key cause and problem of demining accidents in BiH.

CAUSES OF DEMINING ACCIDENTS 1997 - 2016

REVIEW PER CAUSES OF DEMINING ACCIDENTS 2007 - 2017
55 DEMINING ACCIDENTS
- 4 international experts,
- 4 BHMAC operators of which 2 died,
- 2 civilians of which 1 police inspector,
- 1 monitor from monitoring organization,
- 2 supervisors from demining organization,
- 1 medic,
- 2 dog handlers,
- 2 machine operators,
- 61 deminers,
- 9 demining team leads,
- 1 deputy team leader.

24 DEMINING ACCIDENTS
- 1 supervisor from demining organization,
- 4 demining team leaders,
- 1 deputy team leader,
- 28 deminers,
- 1 machine operators.
-24 demining accidents
-35 victims
-19 deaths
-7 severe injuries
-9 minor injuries

10% INCREASE COMPARED TO 1997-2007 PERIOD

Mine PROM-1 – 15 times was a cause of accident!
- 17 deaths,
- 3 victims with severe injuries,
- 4 victims with minor injuries.
- In 2007 it was registered a case of activating PROM-1 mine without consequences

AGE STRUCTURE OF THE VICTIMS

UNKNOWN ED 4%
UXO 17%
ATM 4%
OTHER 4%
PMA-2 8%
PROM-1 63%
over 50 yrs in age 20%
Up to 25 yrs 0%
25-30 6%
30-35 14%
35-40 29%
40-45 14%
45-50 17%
Except January and February, demining accidents happened during all other months in period 2007-2017. March and August are months with 4 registered accidents per month, other months had less accidents.

**WORK ON WEEKEND DAYS??**

**REVIEW OF ACCIDENTS PER DAY**

- **Monday**: 12%
- **Tuesday**: 12%
- **Wednesday**: 8%
- **Thursday**: 21%
- **Friday**: 13%
- **Saturday**: 13%
- **Sunday**: 21%

**OCCURRENCE OF DEMINING ACCIDENT**

- **11.00-12.00**: 25%
- **12.00-13.00**: 8%
- **13.00-14.00**: 8%
- **14.00-15.00**: 0%
- **15.00-16.00**: 8%
- **7.00-8.00**: 9%
- **8.00-9.00**: 9%
- **9.00-10.00**: 29%
- **10.00-11.00**: 4%
- **11.00-12.00**: 25%
EXPERIENCES 2007-2017

a) MinePROM-1 as a central problem and cause of demining accidents!

b) Violation of the prescribed working procedures in manual operations of which the most was qualified as “serious violation“ (90%)

c) Responsibility of managerial staff and staff responsible for maintenance of required level of security and quality.

d) Utilization of prescribed protective equipment 2007-2017:
   - 35 victims in demining accidents
   - 22 deminers did not use any protective equipment
   - 11 deminers used complete protective equipment
   - 2 deminers used incomplete protective equipment

   - 24 victims - 5 deminers used protective equipment
   - 18 deminers ignored this obligation
   - 1 deminer used incomplete protective equipment

f) INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE
   - Role and obligations of BHMAC
   - Jurisdiction of BiH investigation authorities
   - Importance of experience exchange on regional level
QUESTIONS?

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