

Report CTIF HazMat commission

The CTIF HazMat commission is concerned about the classification and labeling of fireworks.

They made a proposal to the UN TDG commission to admit the exploding bomb diagram also to the class 1.4 label.

To support this vision the commission decided to add a list of incident cases with fireworks.

Cases fireworks incidents

1. *Enschede, May 2000*

- An explosion of a fireworks storage and reproduction facility in a populated area caused 21 dead people (including 6 firefighters) more than 1000 casualties and destroyed 1000 houses. It was professional fireworks (class 1.4 and 1.3)

2. *Finland, March 2003*

- A Fireworks Company had been given local voluntary Fire Brigade to destroy it. fireworks and Fire Brigade had destroyed them successfully by burning them. There was 4 m³ fireworks in the log cabin, police estimated afterwards that fireworks contained 400 kg gunpowder. Windows and doors were closed, ignited by a Fire Officer and voluntary fireman. An explosion occurred with 1.4 fireworks, but also 1.3 was involved. One casualty.

3. *Culemborg, February 1991*

- Big explosion in a countryside factory with two deaths. Dealing with 1.3 fireworks, but behavior was like 1.1.

4. *2004, Sydney, Australia*

- One employee is dead, another has had his fingers burnt off and dozens of spectators have been injured - this is the workplace history of Australia's largest pyrotechnics company. Foti International Fireworks has been lauded for its staging of Sydney's New Year's Eve displays, as well as Sydney Olympics ceremonies. But its work practices have been criticised by WorkCover NSW, and the company fined a total of \$252,000 for three serious incidents, including the death of an employee. It has pleaded guilty to all charges. Yesterday the company's practices were again in the spotlight at a hearing at Westmead Coroner's Court over a fire at its Leppington factory which left an employee with burns to 77 per cent of his body. WorkCover is investigating the latest incident, on June 10 last year, and the company faces further prosecution. Dusan Lovric was tipping pressed powder into an "old" machine when it exploded and he became engulfed in flames, according to a statement tendered to court yesterday. Mr Lovric, 55, of Green Valley, was in a coma for six weeks and lost all his fingers but one thumb. The director, Fortunato Foti, told police: "I have no idea what would have caused the accident." In August 2000, an employee, Teuira Maireriki, was burnt to death when a fireworks display in one of the company's factory sheds exploded. The State Coroner, Carl Milovanovich, expressed concern yesterday that Australian standards that covered the storage of dangerous goods and hazardous material did not cover the manufacturing of fireworks. Ben has the paper

5. *Hanij Pennsylvania 2003 and Case Maasvlakte*

- Much import in the port of Rotterdam, 1 million tons fireworks per year. In containers of 30 ton 1.4, a lot of containers have also per container is 3000 kg 1.1, they should be repacked. The ship Hanij Pennsylvania near Sri Lanka caught fire in the fireworks containers and they burned after an explosion for days. Two houses at 300 meters were also destroyed.

6. *March 6th 2002, Carmel, Australia*

- Through the accidental initiation of a firework piece in the preparation area, three explosives magazines, four freight containers, two working sheds, a caravan, several trailers and vehicles were destroyed.
7. *4th August 2004, Fire marshal retires after long fireworks fight*
- The state fire marshal who battled for a decade with the feisty fireworks industry, has retired from what he called a "very stressful job." He was 11 years state's fire enforcer and will be remembered as the marshal who tried to convince the legislature and the courts to strengthen Indiana's fireworks law. And most times, he lost those arguments. "The fireworks industry is getting crazier and crazier. They're getting more and more blatant in breaking the law. Part of the problem is the law itself. There is a short list of legal fireworks in Indiana -- sparklers, noisemakers and smoke bombs, for example. But it is OK to buy illegal products in the state if the buyer promises to use them outside Indiana or set them off at certain controlled locations. He say it is almost impossible to enforce.
8. *Pakistan, June 2004*
- 6 of a family die in Harappa fireworks factory blast.
9. *Pittston, Pa. July 2003*
- A misfire during the grand finale of a July 4 fireworks display caused an explosion that showered flaming debris and sent 13 people to the hospital, officials said. More than 10,000 people were at the fireworks display over the Susquehanna River when the misfire sent spectators diving for cover
10. *Bonita Springs, July 2003*
- The report says the crew should not have even been there at the time of the explosion because their permit didn't allow them on the property until the following day. The report also outlines the potential cause of the blast that killed five people. Of the six people working on Lover's Key that day, only one woman, survived. All of the men killed were from Sunset Fireworks of Missouri. Ignition of a shell or lift charge when the fireworks were being transferred from one truck to another. But according to the report, it isn't possible to determine the exact cause because of the damage to the vehicles and the death of all the direct witnesses. Police dubbed the explosion an accident, but the men had no permit that day to unload at the State Park. In fact, the supervisor rented a truck to transport the fireworks that wasn't designed to carry explosives.
11. *Zhengzhou, May 2004 (Xinhuanet)*
- Three people were killed in a fireworks factory blast Thursday afternoon in Songxian County, central China's Henan Province. Another three people were injured and are receiving treatment in a local hospital. The blast occurred at 2:30 p.m. in an unlicensed fireworks factory in Yaoshang Village of Tianhu Town. The blast tore down a dozen mostly single-story rooms used as workshops and warehouses, killing three immediately at the scene.
12. *May 2000, Valencia*
- An alarm was received in the Central Command which report a series of explosions in the pyrotechnic facility. Three big explosions had taken place with approximately 2 seconds among them. The first units of firefighters arrived to the place finding the installation razed by the explosion, and several members of the Police and volunteers inside of the risk area. The first evaluation showed a double emergency situation; a forest fire and the research and rescue of the victims. Also there was several fire focus inside of the facility area, that should be extinguished. The three initial explosions spread a great quantity of explosive material in the surroundings, and several detonations was happened at same time that the victims was carried out. They found 6 dead bodies and one casualty died two days later.

13. Valencia, August 2004,

- A fireworks facility in Liria town (Valencia) had an explosion in one of the buildings. Two people were injured.

14. Valencia, September 2004,

- A fireworks facility in Villamarxanat town (Valencia) had an explosion one building inside was messing and one worker dead.

15. August 2004, Hungary

- One detonation and following fire in a small town in Hungary. 1.3 was probalby illgal available. Secondary explosions of fireworks. Three dead workers and 10 casualties.

16. October 2004, Thailand

- An explosion in a illegal fireworks factory killed at least 14 people. Two casualties. There was no permission for this activity since 1994.

17. Situation in China January 2005

- China's quality inspectors have released the result of its latest spot check on fireworks, and nearly half of those being checked failed to meet quality standards. The State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, China's quality watchdog, conducted the inspections nationwide. It showed that only 56 per cent of the checked products in China's main firework producing areas in the south and southwest of the country met quality standards. Major defects included the blasting fuses being too short or too long, and the using of banned materials in fireworks. Ba Duoijia from the Administration of Quality Supervision explained the purposes of the spot checks. "We'll fine companies producing sub-standard products in line with national quality law, examine all the stored fireworks to stop sub-standard products appearing on the market, and order local governments supervise and confiscate such fireworks?" Ba said.

A national standard will take effect this March to guarantee the safety of firework production, transportation and storage. It will also regulate the location of firework factories, setting out detailed accident prevention methods for dangerous production processes. China's fireworks industry suffers hundreds of deaths every year in fires and explosions as thousands of people, often in poor rural areas, do much of the work by hand in poorly equipped premises. During January and February, the fatality rate usually surges as producers rush to fill orders for the

18. November 2004, Denmark

- Hundreds of firefighters contained a huge blaze at a fireworks factory Thursday, a day after it broke out, setting off at least one explosion as powerful as an earthquake. One firefighter was killed and at least 20 homes were destroyed.

As many as 350 buildings, including private homes and small businesses, may have been damaged by the fire at the N.P. Johnsens fireworks factory in Kolding in western Denmark, 125 miles west of the capital, Copenhagen.

The blaze was thought to have started Wednesday when two containers of fireworks were being loaded onto a truck, police said. It quickly spread to a nearby building and led to a chain reaction of explosions.

One of the explosions was the equivalent of a magnitude-2 earthquake, according to the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland.

It was unclear what caused the container to combust.

About 2,000 people living near the factory were evacuated as authorities set up a security perimeter. It might take days before people can return, police spokeswoman Gitte Schou said as firefighters worked to cool the containers.

Although the plant has a license to store 330 tons of fireworks, as much as 2,200 tons was stockpiled, police said.

A 33-year-old firefighter was killed and 17 people, including firemen, rescue workers and police officers were treated for minor burns and smoke inhalation, Schou said. Overnight, about 60 people were under medical observation after complaining about respiratory problems.

19. October 2004, China

- Managers of a Chinese fireworks factory where an explosion killed 37 people have been sentenced to up to seven years in prison, the government said Tuesday. The verdict came as factories rushed to fill orders for firecrackers to celebrate the Lunar New Year -- a period when reports of deaths in fires and explosions peak. The explosion Oct. 4 at the factory in the southern region of Guangxi destroyed three workshops, tore the roofs of nearby houses and left the ground strewn with bodies and rubble, according to news reports. Three factory managers were sentenced Monday on charges of causing a nuisance using dangerous materials, the official Xinhua News Agency said. It didn't give any details of what caused the blast. Ma Dezhong and Huang Xiujuan, contractors who operated the factory, were jailed for seven and three years, respectively, Xinhua said. It said another manager, Ma Jing, was sentenced to five years. China's fireworks industry suffers hundreds of deaths every year in explosions and fires despite government promises to tighten safety standards. The industry employs tens of thousands of people, many of them in the poorest parts of the country. They do most of the work by hand, often at home or in small village workshops.

20. February 2005 Lake Havasu City USA

- An explosion in a small building at a fireworks plant here destroyed the building and injured one person. Finely ground black powder blew up in a five-gallon bucket at the Havasu Pyrotechnics facility on Wednesday. John "Bill" Darson of Walnut Creek, Calif., was working at the facility at the time, but he ran out before being seriously injured. He suffered burns on his arm; his hair was singed. "It was an unfortunate accident," Darson said. "I was lucky to get out of the building." Tom Hutter of the Lake Havasu City Fire Department said the metal scoop being used to transfer the powder from the plastic bucket to a metal bucket probably created a static charge that ignited the powder. "That was all it took," Hutter said. Darson was in Lake Havasu with other members of the Western Pyrotechnic Association for the Winterblast event at SARA Park this weekend.

October 7th 2004, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Renewed April 29th 2005, Rozenburg, The Netherlands

Ben Janssen, chairman working group Operations