



ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS IN SOUTH AMERICA DURING 2002 TO 2005

This is a brief description of accidents and incidents that occurred in South America from 2002 to 2005. Some reports have been obtained from public control and emergency institutions as well as from news media of the countries where these events occurred, and from SAFEX files.

Geneva, May 2005

Date:	December 29, 2001
Company or entity:	Centro Comercial Mesa Redonda (an informal sales center)
Address:	Downtown Lima, Peru
Exact location:	Public street, buildings, houses, parking lots and business establishments
Information source:	Fire brigade and news media
Description:	A fire of major proportions occurred involving mainly fireworks that was to be sold during the holiday season in spite of existing legal restrictions. The fire started when a street vendor lighted fireworks during a sales demonstration.
Fatalities and injured:	300 dead (including missing persons) and more than 100 injured
Material:	Approx. 970 m ³ of fireworks, both of Chinese and Peruvian origin
	Informal storage and sales, and the failure of informal vendors and authorities to comply with and enforce the law



Date:	January 21, 2002
Company or entity:	Empresa de Transportes POMA (POMA Transport Company)
Address:	Oyon, Huanuco, Peru
Exact location:	Road at 4500 meters above sea level
Information source:	Empresa de Transportes POMA and EXSA S.A.
Description:	A truck with trailer carrying explosive material slipped off the road and rolled over 50 meters down a cliff causing spillage of the product.
Fatalities and injured:	One dead (a policeman, who was in charge of the custody of the material, as a result of the down falling truck) and 4 injured (stowers)
Material:	12,500 kg of ANFO and 7,500 kg of dynamite, which did not detonate
Causes:	The driver lost control of the vehicle due to bad condition and lack of maintenance of the only road to the destination, a mining unit.



Date:	April 23, 2002
Company or entity:	EXSA S.A.
Address:	Antigua Panamericana Sur km 38.5, Lurin, Lima, Peru
Exact location:	Explosives production plant, in the Biazzi N° 5 planetary mixer for nitroglycerin-based explosives
Information source:	EXSA S.A.
Description:	A detonation occurred, when starting the daily mixing operation with a 240 kg of explosive.
Fatalities and injured:	1 dead operator and 2 injured by falling fragments
Material:	240 kg of explosive mix for dynamite production
Causes:	The operator did not secure adequately the bowl to the mixer. Detailed report has been presented at this SAFEX Congress.



Date:	November 20, 2002
Company or entity:	Ejército de la República del Ecuador (Army of the Republic of Ecuador)
Address:	Cuartel de la Brigada de Caballería Galápagos, Chimborazo, Ecuador (Ecuadorian military barracks)
Exact location:	Army ammunition magazine
Information source:	News media
Description:	An explosion occurred inside the magazine, causing grenades and antitank rockets to be projected from the magazine dropping on different places generating detonations and fires in different areas inside the barracks.
Fatalities and injured:	7 dead and 300 injured
Material:	Unknown amounts of material
Causes:	Inadequate handling of material inside the magazine



Date:	January 23, 2003
Company or entity:	Ejército de la República del Perú (Army of the Republic of Peru)
Address:	Cuartel de Ingenieros El Tablazo, Tumbes, Peru (Army engineers barracks)
Exact location:	Military ammunition magazine
Information source:	News media
Description:	An explosion occurred inside the magazine, when army personnel was handling military explosive material. The explosion affected a large part of the military facilities.
Fatalities and injured:	7 dead and 90 injured
Material:	5 tons of grenades and antitank mines mixed with industrial explosives
Causes:	Wrong handling of the material inside the magazine



Date:	March 23, 2003
Company or entity:	Marina de la República del Ecuador (Navy of the Republic of Ecuador)
Address:	Base Naval Sur, Guayaquil, Ecuador (an Ecuadorian naval base)
Exact location:	Military ammunition magazine
Information source:	Media news
Description:	4 detonations and a fire of major proportions occurred at the naval base; detonations were felt as far as 15 kilometers away from the explosion center, affecting doors and windows of the houses close to the port.
Fatalities and injured:	30 injured
Material:	Unknown amount of medium- and low-caliber ammunition
Causes:	Ignition inside the magazine caused the explosion



Date:	June 17, 2003
Company or entity:	FAMESA SAC.
Address:	Shorey, La Libertad, Peru
Exact location:	Km 110 of road penetrating into the Andes.
Information source:	Ministry of the Interior and news media
Description:	Explosion of a truck loaded with explosive material, that was traveling on the road, heading for the Quiruvilca mining unit. The explosion resulted in a crater of 30 meter in diameter and a depth of 14 meter.
Fatalities and injured:	6 dead
Material:	12,500 kg of dynamite
Causes:	A robbery attempt on the truck produced a shoot-out and the bullets went through the back of the truck, where the load was being carried.

Date:	September 17, 2003
Company or entity:	EXSA S.A.
Address:	Antigua Panamericana Sur km 38.5, Lurín, Lima, Peru
Exact location:	Blasting gelatine production plant
Information source:	EXSA S.A.
Description:	The incident occurred during the blasting gelatine mixing process of nitroglycerine and nitrocellulose.
Fatalities and injured:	4 dead and 11 injured
Material:	1000 kg of nitroglycerine and 150 kg of blasting gelatine
Causes:	Investigation not yet completed



Date:	October 9, 2003
Company or entity:	EXPLONOR S.A.
Address:	Km 12 of highway A-616, Iquique, Chile
Exact location:	Non electric detonator assembly plant
Information source:	News media
Description:	Explosion in a container where non electric detonators were assembled
Fatalities and injured:	5 dead and 15 injured
Material:	Unknown quantity
Causes:	Investigation still in progress



Date:	November 20, 2003
Company or entity:	ORICA BRASIL LTDA.
Address:	Planta Nova Iguacu, Rio do Janeiro, Brazil
Exact location:	Emulsion packaging area
Information source:	SAFEX
Description:	An explosion occurred in the emulsion packaging area. The incident took place at 03:30 a.m. when no operations were being performed at the plant.
Fatalities and injured:	No dead o injured
Material:	Approx. between 3 and 4 kg of emulsion
Causes:	Investigation still in progress

Date:	January 02, 2004
Company or entity:	Series of shops and small business establishments
Address:	Town of Florencio de Varela, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Exact location:	Sales center for diverse products, located downtown
Information source:	News media
Description:	Explosion in an informal unauthorized establishment that stored and sold fireworks. The blast was felt in part of the town, damaging doors and windows of nearby houses and a market in the vicinity.
Fatalities and injured:	4 dead y 18 injured
Material:	Unknown quantity of fireworks
Causes:	Unknown

Date:	May 24, 2004
Company or entity:	IBQ - BRITANITE
Address:	City of Curitiba, Parana, Brazil
Exact location:	Non-electric detonator assembly plant
Information source:	SAFEX
Description:	Explosion
Fatalities and injured:	2 dead and 1 injured
Material:	Unknown quantity
Causes:	Investigation still in progress

Date:	June 14, 2004
Company or entity:	FAMESA SAC.
Address:	Chancay plant, Lima, Peru
Exact location:	Emulsion cartridging area
Information source:	News media
Description:	The incident occurred during maintenance of a Rollex machine.
Fatalities and injured:	1 dead and 2 injured
Material:	Unknown quantity
Causes:	Unknown

Date:	October 27, 2004
Company or entity:	Information not available
Address:	Copiapó, Atacama, Chile
Exact location:	Downtown Copiapó
Information source:	Newspaper
Description:	A three-truck convoy carrying explosive material to a mining settlement rolled over and caused spillage of the product.
Fatalities and injured:	1 injured
Material:	A not confirmed amount of ANFO
Causes:	The truck driver of one of the vehicles stated that he had lost control of the vehicle, because he showed signs and symptoms of weariness, whereby the truck slipped off the road and rolled over. The carrier company violated the regulations on transit of hazardous materials through the city and failed to provide the required police custody.

Date:	November 11, 2004
Company or entity:	ORICA BRASIL LTDA.
Address:	Bairro de Ponte Nova, Lorena, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Lugar:	Cartridged emulsion production plant
Information source:	SAFEX and ORICA BRASIL LTDA.
Description:	The start of fire in the emulsion cartridging plant resulted in evacuation of personnel working in that area. But subsequently, 3 workers, one of them a supervisor, returned to the area, just before the explosion occurred.
Fatalities and injured:	3 dead y 6 injured
Material:	Unknown quantity
Causes:	Investigation still in progress

Date:	March 01, 2005.
Company or entity:	Informal fireworks manufacturer
Address:	Parroquia Ricaurte, Cuenca, Ecuador
Exact location:	A house in the locality, that functioned as informal workshop for the production of fireworks
Information source:	News media
Description:	A fire in one part of the house, where the raw materials were stored, caused an explosion that reached other rooms, where finished products were stored.
Fatalities and injured:	6 injured
Material:	Unknown quantity
Causes:	Violating existing laws on the matter; the rooms, where the raw materials and the finished material were stored, were not suitable for this purpose.



Date:	March 11, 2005
Company or entity:	IBQ - BRITANITE
Address:	Quatro Barras, Brasil
Exact location:	Dynamite production plant
Information source:	SAFEX
Description:	Explosion of high density dynamite in Biazzi planetary mixer during regular mixing operation
Fatalities and injured:	None
Material:	300 kg of nitroglycerine containing explosive mix
Causes:	Under investigation

Date:	March 12, 2005
Company or entity:	Ferrocarriles de Bolivia (Bolivian Railways)
Address:	Visviri, Bolivia
Exact location:	Visviri railway (km 173)
Information source:	News media
Description:	Derailing of 7 wagons of train, which was carrying ammonium nitrate fertilizer, caused the spillage of the product. The final destination of the material was the town of Oruro.
Fatalities and injured:	No dead or injured
Material:	140 tons
Causes:	Unknown