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INCIDENT NOTICE

(Kindly direct all correspondence to the Secretary General)

INCIDENT TITLE: Explosion of Detonator waste bin

DATE POSTED	REFERENCE	SOURCE
18 December 2021	IN 21-01	AECI Mining Explosives
INCIDENT OUTLINE		
When did it happen?	18 December at approximately 5:15 AM	
Who experienced it?	AECI Mining Explosives, Modderfontein, South Africa	
Where did it happen?	Initiating Systems Automated Plant– Detonator filling machine	
What material was involved?	Lead Azide and PETN	
What happened?	<p>The waste bin is fitted to the detonator filling machine and all detonators that have been rejected by the machine are dispensed into the waste bin. Once a certain number of detonators is in the bin the bin is exchanged on the machine with an empty bin. The bins contain sawdust.</p> <p>An unintended detonation occurred whilst an operator was carrying an empty (presumed) detonator waste bin to the detonator filling machine.</p>	
Why did it happen – theory?	<p>The waste bin that was being carried to the machine detonated before it could be fitted onto the detonator filling machine. It is presumed that the bin was dropped.</p> <p>Preliminary investigation showed that that the waste bin did contain explosives. It is suspected that a friction or impact event (or both) could have caused the explosion.</p> <p>The formal investigation is still ongoing.</p>	
What was the impact?	One operator was severely injured. Minor damage to the detonator filling machine. Minor damage to a table and chair. No other personnel were injured	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Enclosure None

Subsequent report None

COMMENT

Value of incident Not determined yet

Comment Investigation ongoing

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