



International exchange of experience on industry-connected accidents of the explosives industries

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**NEWSLETTER**

**6th Edition December 2000**

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**SAFEX ACCIDENT DATABASE**

I think you already know that we have completed our work in recording a CD with all the existing information on the hard copy SAFEX database (Accident Reports 1-620), which the Secretary General inherited from the late Dr Otto Bohm. No disrespect to our predecessors, but this database was collected long before modern computer technology and of course it did not lend itself well to the modern computerisation process, without a great deal of expense on retyping. Accordingly, we have scanned in all the information and these CDs are available now to all members at a cost of £50 each (plus p&p). In addition, all members will be given a free copy at the next Congress.

However, for the future, we have had to design a totally new database and a new screening system. Approval has now been granted by the SAFEX Governing Committee for IT specialists to produce such a system and this work is now well in hand.

A practical effect of this is that you will not be issued with the traditional "blue book" supplements at the end of the year. Instead, Jane Davies proposes to record all the accidents (from report no. 621) onto a new Microsoft Access Database, which will be circulated to all members in January 2001 by floppy disk and updated annually by floppy disk or by e-mail.

We will continue to circulate copies of each new accident report throughout the year.

At the time of writing, one wall of the Secretary General's office is completely covered with all the hard copy files, which date back to 1954. Hopefully, we will be able to jettison these in the not too distance future.

**XIV Congress – 29th May/1st June 2002**

The three agreed themes of this conference are:

**Theme 1: Human Behavioural Factors in Safety**

Facilitator: Mr S Connelly, ORICA

**Theme 2: Inherent Safety, Risk Assessment, Basis of Safety.**

Facilitator: Mr B Coetzee, AEL

**Theme 3: Explosive Waste Management**

Facilitator: Mr J Ayensa, UEE

Please give some thought to what you could contribute and do not hesitate to contact any of the above facilitators or the Secretary General on your proposed contribution.

## WELCOME TO NIXT

The National Institute of Explosives Technology, which is an organisation similar in format to SAFEX, has become an Associate Member of SAFEX International.

Welcome Aboard!

NIXT is obviously a very energetic organisation and under the stewardship of Mr Corrie Conradie, who is Chairman, they are currently arranging a programme of future conferences.  
(www.nixt.co.za)

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We are proud to welcome the following new members to the fold of SAFEX International:

Chemical & Mining Industries Co. Ltd., Jordan  
EANEX S.A., Chile  
Initiating Explosives Systems, India

We are pleased that SAFEX International continues to grow and that, in spite of declining accident rates, interest in safety in manufacture, transport, storage and use of explosives remains high.

We hope that our new members will all contribute and we look forward to meeting them at our next Conference.

### *Personal message from the Secretary General:*

*It is well-established in the brotherhood of explosives manufacture that safety is of paramount importance. Your membership of SAFEX International is testimony to a shared belief in that one simple fact.*

*However, we are aware that in these days of increased litigation it becomes more and more difficult to write open reports on "what went wrong". However, I would still urge you all to do your very best to make full and open reports to SAFEX International just as soon as you can.*

*Finally, as we are approaching the year-end and the festive season I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and above all a Very Happy and Safe New Year.*

*Frank M Murray  
Secretary General, SAFEX International*

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