

SAFEX

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INCIDENT NOTICE

(Kindly direct all correspondence to the Secretary General)

INCIDENT TITLE: 8 Feb 2013: Belgium – Propellant fire during milling

DATE POSTED	REFERENCE	SOURCE
9 February 2013	IN02-13	Member
INCIDENT OUTLINE		
When did it happen?	Friday, 08 February 2013	
Who experienced it?	PB Clermont (Member of SNPE group)	
Where did it happen?	Engis, Belgium	
What material was involved?	About 1000kg of single base propellant powder	
What happened?	While milling recycled ballistic powder, a fire occurred. When the operator saw the fumes he left the process building before the fire started.	
Why did it happen – theory?	It is presumed that the fire started after the shut-off of the dispensing device to the mill. The fire propagated to the dispensing hopper despite the functioning of the sprinkler system.	
What was the impact?	There were no injuries but some damage to the electrical equipment occurred.	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Enclosure None

Subsequent report An Investigation Report (IR) will be issued in due course

COMMENT

Value of incident It is puzzling why the fire was transmitted to the dispensing hopper which contained water-wet powder. The dispensing device should be re-designed to prevent the propagation of a fire.

Observations

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