

SAFEX

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INCIDENT NOTICE

(Kindly direct all correspondence to the Secretary General)

INCIDENT TITLE:

DATE POSTED	REFERENCE	SOURCE
3 August 2022	IN 22-08	Enaex
INCIDENT OUTLINE		
When did it happen?	Friday, April 16 th 2021	
Who experienced it?	Enaex	
Where did it happen?	Nitroglycerine neutralizer unit and wastewater treatment plant.	
What material was involved?	Nitroglycerine	
What happened?	There was an explosion in the Wastewater Treatment System and subsequent explosion in the Nitroglycerine storage tanks.	
Why did it happen – theory?	Excessive amounts of Nitroglycerine (NG) entered the wastewater system at the NG weighing station, due to an imbalance of NG usage and NG production. The wastewater system was not designed for large quantities of NG. The wastewater entered a pumping system not suitable for NG. It is believed the NG was initiated when the pump was activated. The explosion propagated through the wastewater system and ultimately to the NG storage tanks building.	
What was the impact?	Minor and temporary injuries to one operator (eardrum rupture) and material losses.	

COMMENT

Basic BOS: knowing where explosives are, exact quantities and assuring to keep sources of energy away from energetic materials are paramount.

Value of incident

Detailed HAZOPs may identified similar operational issue.

Explosives plant waste treatment systems should be designed, operated, and maintained to the same high standards as the main parts of the plant.

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