

Quick facts on unplanned explosions at munitions sites (UEMS)*

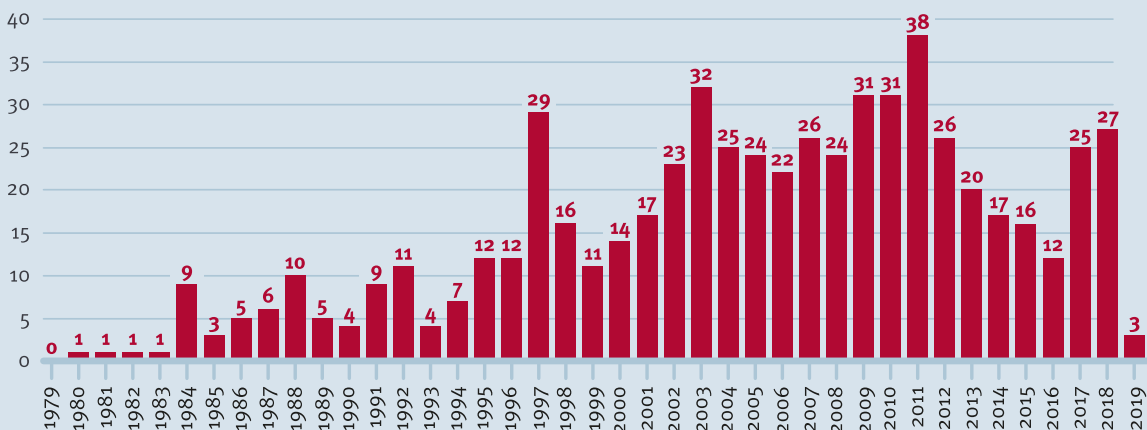
* Figures for 2019 cover data up to 1 March.

UEMS: A global problem

UEMS ARE A GLOBAL PROBLEM WITH INCIDENTS TAKING PLACE ON EVERY CONTINENT SAVE ANTARCTICA AND AFFECTING MORE THAN HALF OF UN MEMBER STATES

UEMS incidents, 1979–2019 (March)

At least 610 UEMS incidents have taken place over the 40-year period 1979–2019 (1 March). Due to availability of information, the database likely captures a higher number of UEMS incidents in the past three decades, than in the period 1979–1989.



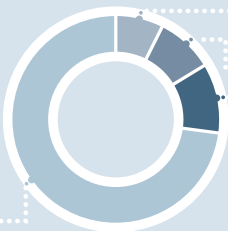
UEMS incidents by casualties

UEMS incidents with largest numbers of casualties.



1st	27/01/2002	Lagos, Nigeria	6,500
2nd	04/03/2012	Brazzaville, Congo	3,777
3rd	22/04/2004	Ryongchon, North Korea	1,460
4th	07/07/2011	Abadan, Turkmenistan	1,428
5th	10/04/1988	Rawalpindi, Pakistan	1,193
6th	04/06/1988	Arzamas, NIZ, Russian Federation	1,091
7th	21/12/1987	Alexandria, Egypt	1,006
8th	29/04/2009	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	726
9th	22/03/2007	Malhazine, Mozambique	622
10th	20/11/2002	Riobamba, Ecuador	548

72.9% of UEMS during the period 1979–2019 occurred in state facilities



7.4% of UEMS during the period 1979–2019 occurred in stockpiles held by **commercial companies**

8.9% of UEMS during the period 1979–2019 occurred in stockpiles held by **unknown actors**

10.8% of UEMS during the period 1979–2019 occurred in stockpiles held by **armed groups**

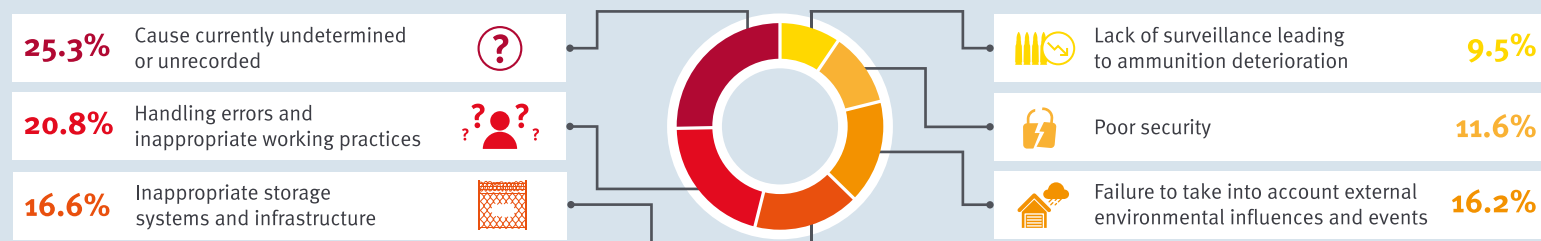
18.2% of UEMS during the period 1979–2019 occurred in **non-state facilities**

UEMS incidents in non-state storage facilities

Over the period examined (1979–2019), most UEMS incidents occurred in ammunition storage facilities under governmental control; however, events also regularly occurred in non-state facilities.

UEMS: Main causes

Improper physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) practices increase the probability of UEMS occurring. During the period examined (1979–2019), the main causes behind UEMS incidents were:



UEMS: Consequences

A single UEMS incident can lead to a number of consequences, including:

Human	Human costs: deaths and injuries
Material	Material costs: damage to private and public property and infrastructure
Environmental	Environmental impacts: environmental contamination by unexploded ordnances (UXO) and dangerous chemicals
Socio-economic	Socio-economic costs: displacement, loss of livelihoods, and decrease in gross domestic product (GDP)
Political	Political impacts: loss of government and military staff due to loss of life, criminal prosecutions, or other career impacts
Military	Military impacts: decrease in operational readiness due to loss of materiel and personnel

AN AVERAGE OF MORE THAN 737 CASUALTIES (DEATHS AND INJURIES) PER YEAR HAVE BEEN RECORDED 1979–2019

Average annual casualties per decade

