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

The human cost of UEMS

Casualties of UEMS, 1979–2019

During the period examined (1979–2019), the main causes behind UEMS incidents were:

- Improper physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) practices increase the probability of UEMS occurring.

UEMS: Consequences

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

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