

Call for increased security when storing explosives

Two explosive magazines built to Australian Standards at a quarry site in New South Wales were recently broken into, prompting a warning from the State authority and a police investigation.

Oxyacetylene cutting equipment was used to break into the door of one magazine and the locking mechanism of another where a significant amount of explosives, detonators and detonating cord were stolen.

Stock changes were able to be verified as log books to account for the explosives and detonators were kept in the magazines, enabling police to determine the exact amount stolen.

In view of the use of an 'oxy-cutter', industry is advised to review site security plans to ensure adequate security arrangements are in place to minimize the risk of unauthorized people breaking into magazines at any time.

Recommendations

Consider:

- ▶ Keeping separate copies of details within log books secure and separate to the magazines (so stock records cannot be stolen);
- ▶ Carrying out regular checks by staff day and night and at weekends;
- ▶ Constructing magazines out of reinforced concrete and steel, being guided by specifications for both materials within the Australian Standard AS 2187:2998, Part 1;
- ▶ Installing appropriate movement sensitive alarms (rated to IP65) within magazines and ammonium nitrate storage facilities;
- ▶ Using electronic locks to access explosive compounds and ammonium nitrate storage facilities;
- ▶ Locking cupboards containing exploders;
- ▶ Ensuring magazine keys are numbered and a key register is utilized and kept in a secure place;
- ▶ Ensuring copies of log book details are kept; and
- ▶ Installing closed circuit television (CCTV) with movement sensors or with direct vision to a control room, with both having a means of storing a copy of any movement around magazines.

Source: Department of Consumer and Employment Protection. MINESAFE Vol.15, No. 2 – July 2006, p. 24. http://www.docep.wa.gov.au/resourcesSafety/PDF/Magazine/MSH_GMP_MineSafeJuly.pdf.