

**Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit
Environmental Risk Identification
Fires Swaziland- 3 August 2007
FR-2007-000121-SWZ**

Disclaimer

This profile is not a conclusive list. Other risks may be possible from sources that are not readily identifiable. The information sources used are public websites. All efforts are made to screen the websites for accuracy.

Objective:

The objective of the Environmental Risk Identification (ERI) is to alert the UN Country Team after the natural disaster to potential secondary risks posed by large infrastructure and industrial facilities containing hazardous materials located in the affected area. This information can be shared with competent local and national authorities as appropriate. Any actual secondary risk should be addressed at the earliest possible stage.

Event: On the 1st August 2007, the Prime Minister Mr. Absalom Dlamini declared the devastating field fires that have been raging for days a national disaster.

Summary of findings:

The following large infrastructure and industrial facilities may pose a risk:

Facility	Location	Hazardous material	Hazard
Large infrastructure			
Large hydro dams			
(under construction)	Komati River Basin	-	High voltage electricity
	Maguga Dam		
Mining activities			
Ferrovandium	Maloma 27° 01' 00" S 031° 39' 00" E	Fuels, explosives, metals, ammonium nitrate	Flammable, Explosive, Toxic
Coal	Maloma 27° 01' 00" S 031° 39' 00" E Emaswatini, Lubombo Maloma Mpaka		
Asbestos	Bulembu	Asbestos	Carcinogenic
General risks of mining activities:			
<i>Possible type of incident</i>	<i>Typical cause of accidents possibly aggravated by the floods</i>		<i>Potential effects</i>
Tailings dam failure	Poor water management, overtopping, foundation failure, drainage failure, piping, erosion, earthquake		Loss of life, contamination of water supplies, destruction of aquatic habitat and loss of crops and contamination of farmland, threat to protected habitat and biodiversity and loss of livelihood
Failure of waste rock dump	Instability often related to presence of water (springs, poor dump drainage)		Loss of life, injuries, destruction of property, damage to ecosystems and farmland
Pipeline failure, e.g. tailings, leach solution	Inadequate maintenance, failure of equipment, physical damage to pipeline		Contamination of soil, water, effects on water users. May not be detected for some time.

Transport of chemicals to/from site	Inadequate transport procedures and equipment, unsafe packaging, high-risk transportation routes	Contamination of soil, water, effects on water users, aquatic ecosystem damage, threat to human health	
Ground substance	Slope failure, breakthrough to surface	Loss of life, damage to property	
Spills of chemicals at site, e.g. fuel tank rupture, reagent store damage	Poor maintenance, inadequate containment	Contamination of soil and water. Air pollution could have health effects	
Fire	Poor design, unsafe practices in relation to flammable materials	Effects of air pollution on health, property damage	
Atmospheric releases	Inadequate design, failure to follow procedures, inadequate maintenance	Community concern, possible health effects	
Explosions (plant)	Inadequate design, failure to follow procedures, inadequate maintenance	Community concern, loss of life, destruction of property	
Blasting and explosives accidents	Poor practice, unsafe storage and handling	Property damage, risk to life	
Electric power stations			
Power generation is based mainly on hydro and diesel generation	- Bagasse Power Station - Thermal power station at Mpaka	Ammonia (cooling), Fuel	Toxic Gas, Flammable
Agro/Food Industry			
Large cooling facilities (slaughterhouses, dairy products, fat, fish and meat, breweries, refrigerated warehouses, etc.)	<i>These facilities are expected to be present in the affected area, but an exact location could not be specified</i>	Ammonia, Freons and Sulphur dioxide	Toxic Gas, Corrosive
Sugar Industry		Sulphur dioxide	Toxic gas
Distilleries, alcohol bottling		Ethanol	Flammable liquid
Chemical Industry			
Textile industry	<i>These facilities are expected to be present in the affected area, but an exact location could not be specified</i>	Benzene, naphthalene, acids, alkalis, chlorine, bromine, sodium nitrate, ammonia, sodium sulphide, metals, lye, dyes, solvents, formic acid	Flammable, Toxic, Corrosive, Oxidizing
Metallurgic and Electronic Industry			
Electronic Industry	<i>These facilities are expected to be present in the affected area, but an exact location could not be specified</i>	Arsine, trimethylchlorosilane	Toxic, Flammable, Corrosive
Specific Basic Industry			
Paper Industry	<i>These facilities are expected to be present in the affected area, but an exact location could not be specified</i>	Chlorine, chlorine dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ammonia, bleaching agent, acrylamide	Liquid Toxic/persistent
Wood Industry		Arsenic	Carcinogenic liquid
Wood Treatment/Limber Industry		Formaldehyde, impregnation agents, coal tar creosote, pentachlorophenol, chromium copper arsenic	Toxic, Corrosive, Flammable

The Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit :

The Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit is the United Nations mechanism to mobilize and coordinate the international response to environmental emergencies caused by natural disaster, technological accidents and complex emergencies.

Information sources:

Infrastructure Risks	Source of information
Nuclear Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.iaea.org/programmes/a2/index.html • http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/cnpp2003/CNPP_Webpage/pages/countryprofiles.htm • http://www.iaea.org/worldatom/rrdb/ • http://www.grid.unep.ch/data/download/gnv181.gif • http://www.worldenergy.org/wec-geis/publications/reports/ser/nuclear/nuclear.asp
Large hydrodams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.worldenergy.org/wec-geis/publications/reports/ser/hydro/hydro.asp
Large Chemical/Industrial Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.pops.int/documents/implementation/nips/submissions/default.htm • http://www.chem.unep.ch/pops/pcdd_activities/inventories/default.htm
Gas/Oil: Refineries, Pipelines, explorations sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/index.html • http://www.worldenergy.org/wec-geis/publications/reports/ser/gas/gas.asp • http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/map_sites/oil_and_gas_sites.html
Mining activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.worldenergy.org/wec-geis/publications/reports/ser/coal/coal.asp • http://www.worldenergy.org/wec-geis/publications/reports/ser/uranium/uranium.asp • http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/country/2005/mzmyb05.pdf • http://www.camec-plc.com/Investors_Media/RNS/2004/rns_025.php
Hazardous waste storage sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.basel.int/natreporting/compilations.html
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conseil pour la réduction des accidents industriels majeurs (CRAIM). <i>Risk Management Guide for Major Industrial Accidents intended for municipalities and industry</i>. 2002 Edition. • International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). <i>Manual for the classification and prioritization of risks due to major accidents in process and related industries. Inter-agency Programme on the Assessment and Management for Health and Environmental Risks from Energy and other Complex Industrial Systems</i>. 1996. • UNEP Industry and Environment (IE). <i>Hazard Identification and evaluation in a local community. Technical report n°12</i>. 1998. • UNDAC <i>Field Handbook</i> • <i>Emergency Response guidebook 2004. A guidebook for first responders during the initial phase of a dangerous goods/hazardous materials incident</i>. • UNEP. <i>APELL for Mining. Guidance for the Mining industry in raising awareness and preparedness for emergencies at local level. Technical report N°41</i>. 2001 	

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