



Coal Mine Explosion, Sijunjung, West Sumatra Province, Republic of Indonesia

HIGHLIGHTS

- On Tuesday, 16th June 2009, 12:00 am local time, a powerful fire explosion occurred at underground coal mine in Bukit Bual village, Kota Tujuh sub-district, Sijunjung District, West Sumatra Province.
- 17 persons died, 9 injured, 8 inpatients, and approximately 23 missing, as they are trapped underground.
- Sawahlunto Hospital had set up 3 mobile health units and medical team near the incidence site.
- MOH, Regional Crisis Center of West Sumatra, Provincial Health Office, District Health Office, Dr. Djamil Hospital, Sawahlunto, Solok District Hospital and Disaster Victim Identification Team in close collaboration with WHO Indonesia, provided integrated Emergency Health Services according to Standard Operating Procedures.

Affected Areas and Incident Site Mapping



Caption:
The incident map of fire explosion



Caption:
The fire explosion in the coal mine



Situation Analysis

- Authorities were still investigating the cause of the explosion.
- The blast site contained excessive methane gas.
- A Preliminary probe indicated that the methane gas blast may have been triggered by a short circuit.
- There was an explosion at the 100 meter deep mine, where the mine is at Hilly Bukit Bual area, located 100 kilometers from the Provincial capital of Padang.
- The fire explosion was believed to be triggered by the short circuit of the methane gas blaze, up to 50 meters height from the mining hole.
- Searching rescuers used excavators, wind blowers and masks to dig into the underground blast site in search of dozens of victims.
- Numbers of buried victims are still not certain, as the attendance sheet was also burned.
- There was a very slim chance that any buried victims were still alive because there would be short of oxygen underground.
- The coal mine is owned by local private company which had obtained its mining permit from the Sawahlunto administration.
- It's produced an average of 1,500 tones of coal a month, and coal was supplied to local paper and power companies.
- The local government was supposed to supervise closely the mining activities in Sawahlunto.
- Sometimes the mining permit is easily granted, but further assistance and supervision about good mining practices are often forgotten.
- Underground mining is required advanced technology, including heavy machinery.



Caption:
Rescue team trying to evacuate victims.

Casualties and Damages

Table showing casualties & damage:

Dead	Injured			Inpatients		Missing
	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Dr. Djamil Hospital	Sawahlunto Hospital	
17	2	1	6	1	7	23

Table showing district hospital in charge for injured treatment

No	Hospital In charge
1	Dr. Djamil Hospital
2	Solok Hospital
3	Sawahlunto Hospital



Communication, Transportation and Electricity Power

Communication and Electricity Powers are still working.
Local transportation disrupted.

Response

MOH – WHO Indonesia

- Rapid Health Assessment Team formed and deployed
- Establish Health Post, tents and injured victims referred to the District Hospital.
- Emergency health supplies provided.
- DVI Team of West Sumatra Police Department sent for victim identification.
- Regional Crisis Center of West Sumatra is in close coordination with Dr. Djamil hospital in Padang, Solok Hospital, Sawahlunto Hospital.
- WHO and MOH up-dating the situation and filling the gaps in collaboration with National Board for Disaster Management (BNPB)
- WHO is in close communication with MOH in monitoring the situation through Crisis Center as well as District and Provincial Health Office.

Status of International Aid

So far the government has not officially requested any international aid. The local authorities, with support from central government and ministries, are trying their best to manage the situation so far. Agencies and Donors are welcome to provide support through on-going programmes.

Important Contacts

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Source of Information from Indonesia

Information is gathered from the following sources. This report is for reference only and should not be quoted as factual accuracy can change.

1. WHO
2. Crisis Center (PPK), MoH
3. UN System
4. BNPB
5. Local and international news media