DROPs Lessons Learned: Cable Ladder Rungs from Derrick Cable Tray

DROPs Description:
➢ Following a period of high winds 3 x suspected dropped objects were observed on the East Brae Skid Deck by the Deck Foreman.

Finding:
➢ Upon inspection, the objects were identified as rungs from a cable ladder rack located within the drilling derrick. The heaviest rung weighed 0.45kg and fell from a height of 48.4m. Based on the calculated impact energy, this had the potential to cause a fatality.
➢ The pre-fabricated, cable racks with welded rungs were in place from original build (>30 years).
➢ Plastic cable fasteners were used instead of the required metal cable fasteners.
➢ Cables were not adequately secured to the ladder rack with the bundle spanning multiple rungs instead of the minimum of every second rung required for Low Voltage cable.

Finding Conclusion:
➢ Inspection surveys failed to identify:
   ➢ the fatigue caused to the welded ladder rungs by movement in the exposed location, or
   ➢ the cable fasteners were the incorrect specification and used at incorrect spacing.

Initial Actions:
➢ A full DROPS sweep was conducted by rope access personnel to ensure there were no other areas of loose cable rack within the derrick that could pose a dropped object risk.

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<tr>
<th>Consequence</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Potential</th>
<th>Fatality</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
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