

## Scouts NSW Activities – Incident notification/Shared Learnings

**Date** - 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**Action required?** For information only, shared learning.

**Activity** – Ladder climbing

**Description** – Ladder climbing activity for Scouts. Static lines as top anchors, secured to surrounding trees, separated belay systems, approximate climb height of 6m.

**Incident reported** – During inspection after first session, it was observed that screw gate carabiners at the top of the rigging had unlocked gates. The vibration and bouncing in the system had gradually caused the screw gate to unscrew.

**Risk?** Low likelihood, high consequence. There was no potential contact between carabiners and any other objects, so minimal chance of gates being bumped open during operation. Dual krabs per ladder ensured redundancy in the system.

**Solution** – All krabs in the system were checked and rotated accordingly so that vibration would not unscrew the locking mechanism. This solution was monitored closely and effective for the remainder of the activity.



**Other options** – Use of auto lock krabs would have been more effective, though were not available for this activity.

**Comments** – Normal laddering, in a cave, would usually use shorter tapes or traces resulting in very low bounce and vibration. This type of issue doesn't typically arise.

However with the setup in this situation, or something like crate stacking, there will likely be higher levels of bounce and vibration.

**Questions?** Refer Wal Waerner, DCC AT&F, email [wal.waerner@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:wal.waerner@nsw.scouts.com.au).