

### **Safety problem with deflection chains from Fixe!**

Once again, a deflection chain from FIXE tears. DAV Sicherheitsforschung recommends replacing previously installed chains of the manufacturer.

#### **Past History**

As early as the summer of 2015, DAV safety research was sent a broken FIXE chain link, part of a FIXE equalization anchorage. At that time, the manufacturer reviewed the problem and published the recommendation that the problem could be solved cost-effectively and without much time by backing up the top link with a Maillon Rapide. They found cracks in chains of the manufacturer that were based on the phenomenon of stress corrosion cracking. In order to be able to connect to the bolt hangar, according to FIXE, the top chain link must be separated and rewelded manually. This handmade weld is susceptible to stress corrosion cracking. We informed about this on the homepage of the DAV: [https://www.alpenverein.de/bergsport/sicherheit/warnhinweise/sicherheitsproblem-bei-umlenketten-von-fixe\\_aid\\_29317.html](https://www.alpenverein.de/bergsport/sicherheit/warnhinweise/sicherheitsproblem-bei-umlenketten-von-fixe_aid_29317.html)

#### **Current Claim**

Now there is another cracked FIXE chain in DAV safety research, in which apart from the first, hand-welded, also the second, mechanically welded chain link is broken (see photo 1). The manufacturer confirmed that this was obviously a "bad material choice".

The upper links of this FIXE anchor were backed up with the help of a Maillon Rapide, as recommended by the manufacturer. But since the second chain link broke, the diversion was only on one side. Two of the three fragments could be found with a metal detector.

#### **Extent of damage**

Since the manufacturer was previously unable to communicate how potentially dangerous chains can be identified or which production batches are not affected by the problem, it must be assumed at the moment that all previously installed chains from FIXE are classified as potentially dangerous.



Photo 1: The FIXE anchor, where 2 links are broken.



Photo 2: E.g. of a temporary makeshift backup.

**Recommended actions** Due to the problems described, DAV safety research recommends that all previously installed FIXE chains be replaced immediately. The highest priority is the baffles of the design type "Ausgleichsverankerung". Based on the results of in-house testing, FIXE now produces its chains of a different material. New chains from FIXE are therefore also suitable for replacement. As an aftereffect, chains can be temporarily secured with a quick-release sling hooked into the hook and ring parallel to a chain strand (see photo 2).