Safety Alert

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Subject: Dropped Lightning Rod

What Happened / Narrative

A lighting rod conductor mounted on top of a dynamic gangway tower for a Walk-to-Walk vessel was found lying on the deck below the tower. No personnel onboard the vessel observed or heard the object fall.

The potential for serious injury existed due to:

- the location of the dropped area (deck is frequented by personnel)
- the weight of the object (1.5kg)
- the distance it fell (26m)

Why Did it Happen / Cause

There was no obvious damage to the rod or fittings, it is assumed that the fittings loosened / unscrewed over time.

The incident presents immediate causes such as:

- Impact of rough or bad weather on the rod securing connections
- lack of inspection/maintenance on the securing of the rod
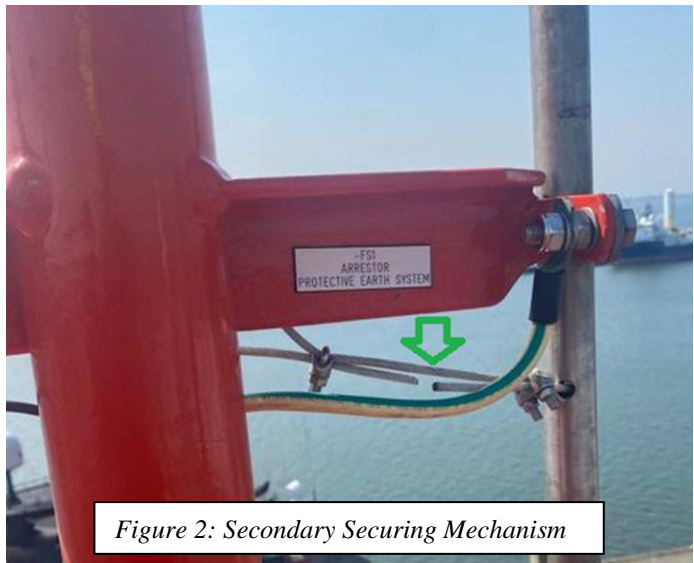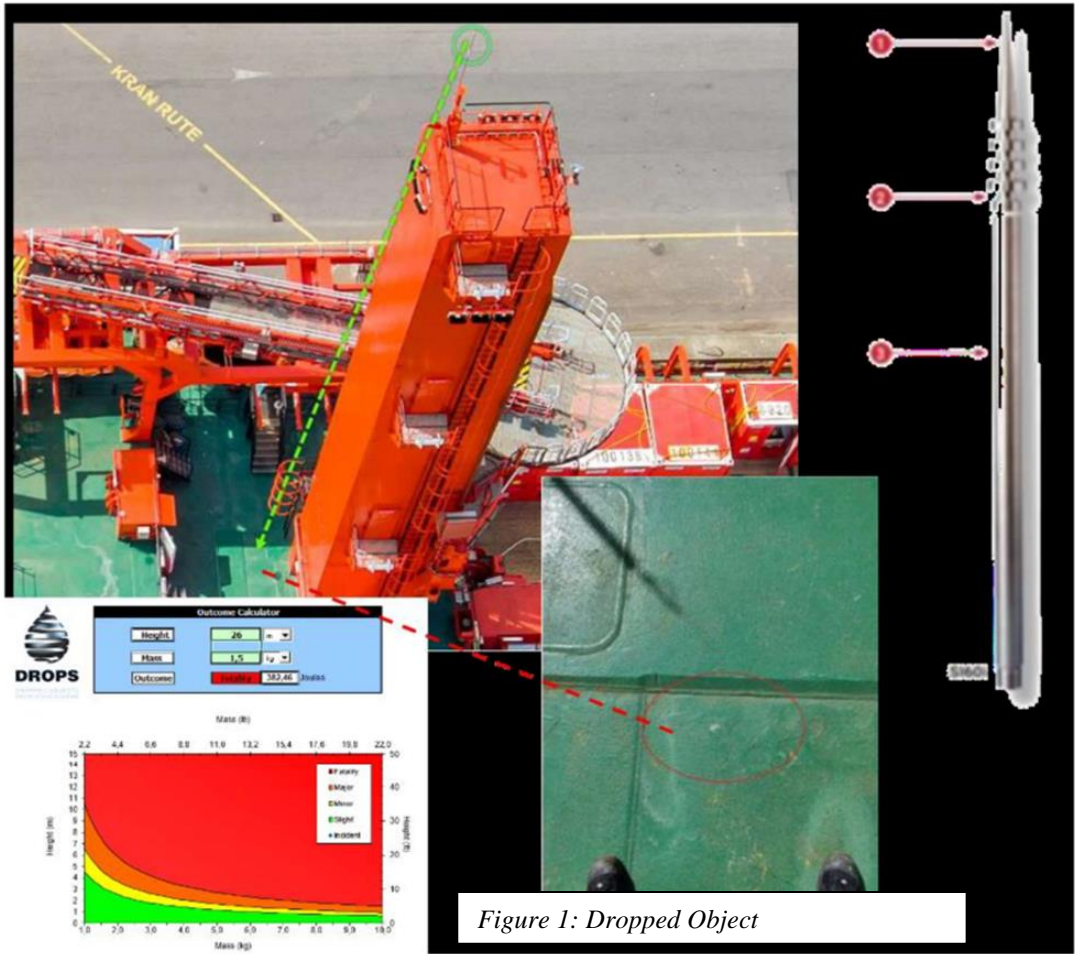- Design deficiency in terms of a secondary securing mechanism for the rod

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

- Create a planned maintenance schedule to regularly check the lighting rod conductor fittings.
- This planned maintenance schedule must be applied to other installed equipment i.e., lights, cameras, wind sensors etc.
- Install a secondary securing mechanism to the lighting rod components and other equipment where necessary.

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Figure 1: Dropped Object

Figure 2: Secondary Securing Mechanism