

WATCH YOUR ANCHOR!

CORROSION AND STRESS CORROSION CRACKING FAILURE OF CLIMBING ANCHORS



QUICK FACTS

A recent incident in Leonidio indicates unexpected failure of climbing anchor after only some months/years in place.

These failures occurring mostly on stainless (!) steel anchors are due to environmental degradation, i.e. corrosion and more specifically stress corrosion cracking (SCC).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLIMBERS

When climbing

- Visually check the anchors, look for eventual cracks, even if difficult to detect; SCC is not always visible
- Consider SCC when assessing the risk of climbing a given route.
- Belay/lower from redundant, multi-bolt anchors, if possible from more than one belay ring.
- Back up bolts and belay/rappel stances with nuts, camming devices, trees, and/or threaded hourglasses.
- Be prepared to abandon projects with suspect bolts.

In the event of bolt failure (once the climbers are safe and injuries have been attended to)

- Collect the failed anchor parts; avoid disturbing the failure surface or trying to piece together the failed anchor.
- Inform the local climbing community.
- **Contact the UIAA** and make failed anchor parts available to the UIAA for analysis:
<https://theuiaa.typeform.com/to/rIBZyc>



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOLTERS

Please contact the tourism office or local authorities for any bolting to inform them about your project.

Use UIAA 123 SCC certified rock anchors in coastal areas.

Prefer glue-in anchors to expansion ones, think long term equipment.

You can find more information about corrosion and rock anchors here:



https://theuiaa.org/documents/safety/09122020_UIAA_ClimbingAnchors_Update_123.pdf