Title: Lower Stairwell Step Collapse

Location: Process platform

Activity Type (Result/outcome): Injury

What happened?

An injury occurred when a worker was descending the mezzanine well deck area heading to the lower second deck. When the worker reached the last step, the fiberglass bracing of the metal step collapsed causing him to fall to the deck and injure his knee.

What caused it?

- The bracing supporting the step may have exceeded its life expectancy.
- The bracing may have deteriorated due to periodic exposure to chemicals or prolonged exposure to weather or excessive vibration.
- Unless inspected closely, the bracing appeared to be in good condition.

Corrective actions:

- Replace the fiberglass bracing with more durable aluminum supports.
- Add diagonal and cross bracing for additional strength and support.
- Install J-bolts to secure stairway to lower grating deck.
- Inspect similar construction on all associated facilities to verify the safety of the step bracing of all stairwells.

It is provided for information purpose. This information should be evaluated to determine if it is applicable in your operations, to avoid reoccurrence of such incidents.