



Meeting Minutes

Name: DROPS Canadian Chapter

Function: Community of Practice

Type: Standing

TOR:

Date/Time:

Version 1.6

April 2, 2026

9:00 am - 11:00 am (MT)

Executive Summary

The DROPS Canadian Chapter Community of Practice met to review serious dropped-object learnings, Energy Safety Canada (ESC) initiatives, regulatory engagement, and industry trends affecting dropped-object prevention and reliable securing.

A safety share examined a serious dropped-object incident during derrick-raising operations in which a tubing board component fell approximately 12 feet. Although no injuries occurred due to exclusion zones and immediate response, the event had fatal potential. The investigation identified missing retention components, inappropriate overhead securing, and inspection criteria gaps that allowed deficiencies to persist across multiple inspection stages. Root causes included inadequate engineering controls, unsuitable securing equipment, and gaps between training and task-specific competency. Corrective actions included a management of change, revised inspection requirements, enhanced training and documentation, and implementation of redundant securing measures across the rig fleet. The incident reinforced the importance of fit-for-purpose securing and consideration of dynamic and impact loading.

ESC provided updates on prevention and learning initiatives relevant to dropped-object risk reduction. A new Priority Learning Moment process will enable rapid, anonymized sharing of key learnings from serious incidents to support timely prevention. Updated bulletins, including a revised NORM bulletin, are forthcoming. The Energy Safety Conference (April 28-30) will focus on serious incidents and fatalities, while work continues through the Serious Incident and Fatality (SIF) Task Group to establish standardized definitions and performance metrics.

Regulatory collaboration remains a key focus. ESC is implementing an Employer Review Program with Alberta OHS centered on collaborative improvement. Engagement with Saskatchewan OHS has expanded around dropped-object prevention and regulatory review, with additional engagement planned with Alberta OHS and Manitoba.

DROPS strategy activities were reviewed, including realignment of working groups and development of targeted deliverables. The first working group will focus on tool tethering and working at heights. Polling identified priority topics such as high-energy calculators, reliable securing, passive drop systems, exclusion zones, and tool tethering.

A guest presentation explored the shift from checklist-based inspections to data-driven, electronic DROPS management systems. Discussion emphasized that many securing failures result from late-stage decisions and reliance on static load ratings without accounting for dynamic forces. Digital DROPS systems were identified as improving accountability,



traceability, and prevention by embedding inspection into daily operations and informing future design decisions.

Key themes included strengthening reliable securing, improving early engineering input, leveraging data-driven tools, and expanding regulatory collaboration through the DROPS Canadian Chapter.



Meeting Minutes

1.0 Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed attendees and reviewed the agenda.

2.0 Safety Share – Serious Incident Review (presentation included in Teams site)

A serious dropped-object incident occurred during derrick raising operations on a single-service rig. While exclusion zones were in place and inspections had been completed, a tubing board center pad weighing approximately 48 pounds fell approximately 12 feet when the derrick reached a 30-45 degree angle. Operations were immediately stopped and the derrick safely lowered. No injuries occurred due to effective exclusion zones and prompt response.

The investigation determined that required retention components—including pins, stopper plates, and appropriate overhead securement—were missing. A carabiner had been installed as a substitute despite being unsuitable for overhead and impact loading. These deficiencies were not identified during multiple inspection stages, including OEM and field inspections, due to gaps in inspection criteria and documentation.

Root causes included inadequate engineering controls, use of inappropriate equipment, inspection blind spots, and a gap between training and task-specific competency. The incident highlighted the risk of relying solely on rated capacity without considering loading direction and impact forces.

Corrective actions included issuing a management of change, revising inspection checklists to explicitly verify retention components, updating training and certification requirements, reinforcing overhead logbook use, and implementing redundant primary and secondary retention systems. A wider review identified similar risks across other equipment, prompting inspections and updates across the rig fleet.

3.0 Review of Open Action Items

Members are encouraged to review the action item table that is included in the minutes.

4.0 ESC Updates

The Energy Safety Canada website now includes a Priority Learning Moment process. This process is intended to rapidly share anonymized learnings from serious incidents or fatalities across industry, focusing on what occurred and what actions organizations should consider. Notifications will be issued quickly and communicated broadly to industry leadership to support timely prevention.

Bulletins remain available to raise awareness and provide education on emerging or persistent industry issues. A revised NORM bulletin is scheduled for upcoming release.



The Energy Safety Conference will take place April 28 to May 1 and will focus on serious incidents and fatalities, including lessons learned and actions for industry improvement. Members were encouraged to register and attend.

Work continues through the Serious Incident and Fatality (SIF) Task Group, which is developing a standardized definition, structure, and performance metrics for SIF.

Additional initiatives underway include work related to concurrent operations and development of an industry guide to support improved safety outcomes. A dedicated session at the Energy Safety Conference will highlight creative sentencing projects, including completed work and current initiatives.

Organizational updates were noted, including the elimination of the Vice President, Industry Impact and Development role, and the appointment of a new Saskatchewan Regional Manager.

An Employer Review Program is being implemented in collaboration with Alberta OHS. The program is intended to support improvement and prevention through collaboration rather than enforcement.

The refreshed Line of Fire program, developed through the Critical Work Management project, has been posted to the Energy Safety Canada website. Updated resources are available, and support is offered to organizations implementing or strengthening line-of-fire programs.

Regulatory engagement continues to expand. A recent meeting with Saskatchewan OHS focused on dropped-object events, differences between dropped objects and line of fire hazards, and available CoP resources, including inspection tools, checklists, guidance, micro-learning videos, and exclusion-zone practices. Saskatchewan OHS identified limited regulatory references to dropped objects and is currently reviewing its OHS regulations, creating opportunity for collaboration. Ongoing engagement with Saskatchewan OHS is planned, with interest expressed in participating in future CoP meetings. A follow-up meeting with Alberta OHS is scheduled for April 10.

Recent DROPS Strategy Team discussions included safety moments related to dropped objects, review of membership and structure, realignment of working groups, vendor engagement, and development of Energy Safety Canada-funded micro-learning content. Budget review and strategic planning will continue to ensure alignment with the CoP Terms of Reference.

Future conference engagement is being explored, including potential workshops, presentations, or exhibits at the 2027 Energy Safety Conference. Industry and regulatory collaboration efforts are also expanding, with Manitoba identified as an additional engagement opportunity.

Development of standard guidelines and resources remains ongoing. Three dropped-object calculators currently in use across industry will be reviewed and compared at a future



meeting, with plans to make these tools available through the Energy Safety Canada website to support informed selection.

Clarification was provided on the structure and purpose of the Strategy Group and Working Groups. The Strategy Group focuses on overall direction and priorities, while Working Groups are intended to support delivery of specific, practical outputs aligned with CoP objectives.

Interest was requested from members to participate in Working Groups. The first planned focus area is tool tethering and working at heights, with the Working Group tasked with defining scope and deliverables related to tool control and dropped-object prevention. Members interested in contributing to this work were encouraged to volunteer.

The CoP was polled on topics of interest - see ranking below:

1. High Energy Calculator- Dr. Matthew Hallowell Safety Function Energy Calculator
2. Passive Drop Systems
3. Reliable Securing
4. Exclusion Zones
5. Material Transferring
6. Tool Tethering
7. Mobile Aerial Work Platforms
8. Lifting and Rigging
9. Rope Access
10. Cargo Securement

5.0 Rethinking DROPS Management: From Activity to Insight

(presentation included in Teams site)

Member Discussion

Members discussed industry trends, challenges, and opportunities related to reliable securing and adoption of electronic dropped-object management tools.

A recurring issue identified through dropped-object inspections is the selection of securing equipment based primarily on static load ratings without adequate consideration of dynamic and shock loading. Long fall factors, excessive slack in chains or wires, and side or impact loading were highlighted as common contributors to securing failures that exceed equipment design limits. Rated capacity alone was noted as insufficient without evaluating how loads are transferred during movement or failure.

Under-capacity or unsuitable securing methods were described as frequent findings, often linked to late-stage or reactive selection of materials. Lack of early engagement with competent expertise during design and construction phases was identified as a key factor, resulting in inappropriate material choices such as incorrect steel grades, fasteners, or securing configurations that later generate numerous inspection findings.

Discussion then shifted to industry adoption of electronic dropped-object management tools. While such systems have been available for several years, uptake has been gradual. Initial cost and reliance on traditional paper-based inspections were identified as barriers, although



longer-term benefits were emphasized. Effective implementation was described as enabling improved data capture, traceability, and accountability, with responsibility shifting to site teams rather than reliance on frequent third-party inspections.

Use of digital systems was noted to reduce repeat findings and dropped-object incidents by embedding inspection and follow-up into daily operations. The value of inspection data was highlighted, particularly when used to influence design decisions, modifications, and new builds across assets and regions.

Functional considerations were discussed, including use of web-based platforms that do not require proprietary hardware, ability to operate offline with later synchronization, and flexibility for remote or temporary work environments.

Future capabilities related to artificial intelligence were also discussed, including potential use to improve consistency in best-practice application across regions and to analyze large datasets to identify trends, recurring issues, and preventive opportunities.

Cost models were described as subscription-based and scalable, with pricing positioned to be comparable to or lower than traditional inspection approaches over time. Overall, the discussion reinforced that reliable securing and dropped-object prevention benefit from early technical input, fit-for-purpose securing methods, and integration of data-driven tools into standard operational processes, rather than reliance on periodic inspections alone.

6.0 2026 Meeting Dates and Closing Remarks

The June 4 meeting will be held at the Energy Safety Canada Calgary Office (with a virtual MS Teams option). **For planning purposes, please let ESC know if you plan to attend in-person.**

2026 Meeting Dates:

- June 4 - Hybrid - ESC Calgary Office/MS Teams
- September 3 - Virtual

If you're interested in presenting a guest presentation or sharing a safety moment at one of our meetings, please reach out. Also, pass the contact of anyone that could present to the CoP in any of the remaining dates.

7.0 Adjournment



Action Item Table

****Strategy Session & Survey Response Actions** are included separately in MS Teams site. Link: [DROPS Strategy Session- Executive Summary & Action Plan-November 27, 2025.pdf](#)

Item	Description	Responsible	Completed	Status	Notes
2024-02	Provide contacts for manufacturing vendors we can invite to DROPS meeting.	All members		Ongoing	Members are encouraged to contact Abbey with ideas that may be of interest to the group for possible inclusion in future meetings.
2024-03	Volunteer for safety share during DROPS meetings.	All members		Ongoing	Members interested in volunteering for a Safety Share are asked to contact Abbey.
2024-06	ESC to reach out to Nord-Lock.	ESC	Q1-2026	Complete	A member will provide ESC with a contact at Nord-Lock. Update: A member from Nord-Lock has joined the CoP.
2024-11	Create general bowtie which could be applied both in and outside the oil industry.	Member	Apr 2026	Complete	Confirm support for this request at the September meeting. Sept 2025 Update: Member will explore sharing their company's resource. They will also review the general version available on the ESC website to determine if the two are comparable. Apr 2, 2026 Update: Member has shared what could be shared.
2025-1	Explore the possibility of ESC discussing dropped object regulations with OHS Alberta.	ESC	Q2-2026	Complete	Member noted that there is a lack of regulations around dropped objects. Sept 2025 Update: Following the strategy session, a member may have a contact within OHS. April 2026 Update: Meetings with ESC and CoP Chair/Vice-Chair taking place with OHS from western provinces.
2025-2	Create a unified bowtie model for critical controls to aid interactions with regulators and standardize what is considered critical.	Incident and Analysis Working Group		Open	
2025-7	Share slide deck and bowtie shown during Sept 4, 2025, meeting (if approved by company).	Member	Q2-2026	Complete	Dropped & Falling Object - Simplified Bowtie was shared and uploaded to the CoP's MS Teams site.
2025-8	Invite organizations in your network to join DROPS Canadian Chapter.	All members		Ongoing	
2025-10	Review previous ESC Rod Transfer Alerts for any required revisions/updates.	ESC		Open	
2026-1	Members invited to join Strategy Group.	ESC/Members		Open	Members expressed interest during Apr 2 meeting. Other interested members are to contact ESC or the chair or vice-chair.
2026-2	Members needed for WG (Tool Tethering). DROPS Working Groups - Members and Objectives.xlsx	ESC/Members		Open	CoP members interested, please contact ESC, chair or vice-chair. Members who have previously indicated interest in the Training, Education and Communications are to confirm continued interest.