



MEETING MINUTES

Name: DROPS Canadian Chapter
Function: Community of Practice
Type: Standing
TOR: Version 1.4
Date/Time: April 3, 2025
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MDT)

1.0 Welcome by the Chair

The Secretariat welcomed everyone and introduced the DROPS group, highlighting its benefits. He reviewed the agenda and emphasized the importance of active participation.

2.0 Safety Moment/Ice Breaker (DROPS Journey)

DROPS Journey - Well Delivery (presentation included in the DROPS Teams Site).

The presenter explained that a significant, non-fatal incident in well delivery highlighted serious risks and revealed gaps in DROPS awareness and training. The review showed that Alberta's industry did not meet global standards, with improper equipment usage and insufficient training among workers and management.

In 2022/2023, the Well Delivery team undertook an online DROPS program to understand global practices, conducted inspections, and addressed deficiencies. They audited DROPS programs across partner companies, created a checklist with DROPS International's assistance, and identified further gaps. All workers received DROPS awareness training, which was integrated into management systems and competency programs, including vendor companies. Exclusion zones were established, and MOC programs were created to ensure safety.

The journey continues into 2024-2025, initially focusing on the completions group. Following incidents in drilling and operations, the completions group's practices were shared. An internal position for a company-wide DROPS expert was created.

One of the presenters (DROPS Specialist) described his role in assessing facilities. He mentioned that despite implementing DROPS standards, serious incidents on the drilling side in 2024 highlighted ongoing issues with falling items from the derrick. He emphasized the need to shift the narrative from "that will never happen" to "when that happens" are we prepared to fail safely?

Companies have inspection checklists and picture logs, but the presenter said he broke down the derrick into four sections to examine each individually, considering static and dynamic aspects. He stated that inspections are conducted with the mast laid over, then standing, to ensure thorough checks.



The presenter noted that contractors engaged well during inspections, moving away from the mindset of "that will never happen." He highlighted key findings, including proper application and installation of primary and secondary securing measures. During inspections, he also questions the necessity of equipment at height, aiming to remove unused items without creating hazards.

The presenter described supplier program improvements, involving open discussions about securing measures, with MOC processes and analyses guiding decisions. He emphasized worker engagement, which included meeting crews, laying the rig over, inspecting, and conducting walkarounds of the equipment. The presenter mentioned that this program has now extended, with him presenting on the DROPS process at vendor meetings.

A member asked the presenters if they could share any audit checklists to help create a standard template. The checklist will be added to the DROPS Teams site.

Another member asked about replicating the DROPS process in other business areas like operations and maintenance. The presenters replied that he is working on this, having completed the first full DROPS inspection at Foster Creek and now focusing on training teams. He mentioned that "change agents" have been created for each business unit, identified by senior leadership, and they hold monthly meetings to discuss progress and improvements.

Another member inquired about the training programs used for DROPS. In response, the presenter provided the link to the [DROPS Awareness eLearning](#).

A member emphasized the importance of the management of change (MOC) process. He noted that their company has implemented MOC, which is crucial for DROPS, especially when modifying structures at height. The member pointed out that some facilities might make changes without considering the impacts, making the MOC process essential for DROPS.

Another member explained that their company is developing policies using resources from Energy Safety Canada and insights from this group. He advised against overthinking and trying to cover everything from the outset and recommended introducing changes gradually to avoid overwhelming management.

3.0 Survey Result Action Plan Implementation

The Secretariat reviewed the action plan formed from the 2024 survey responses, touching on a few key actions. He noted that item #3 involves forming working groups to handle specific actions. Regarding item #7 and available resources, the Secretariat shared information about virtual reality training being developed by DROPS Asia. ESC is considering hosting this VR training to offer comprehensive DROPS training experience.

One member added that they are in the process of acquiring a VR camera for training and competency on the rigs and construction. He invited anyone interested to reach out for more information.



The Secretariat then discussed item #10, highlighting several ongoing initiatives. He mentioned a member's suggestion to develop industry-recommended practices focusing on drilling, completion, production, pipeline, etc. This idea was proposed through last year's survey, and he noted that assignments to a working group will be shared shortly.

The Secretariat concluded by emphasizing that the chapter listens to feedback and translates it into actionable plans. He encouraged everyone to participate actively, as the working groups will be instrumental in achieving these goals.

4.0 Working Groups Kick-off | Operational Overview

The Secretariat discussed the working groups, noting that last time they shared the opportunity to address various tasks. He emphasized the "divide and conquer" approach, suggesting that distributing responsibilities allows more members to get involved and contribute innovative ideas, benefiting the chapter.

The Secretariat shared a summary spreadsheet for the DROPS Working Groups on the DROPS Teams site. He noted that the draft Responsibilities column serves as a baseline. The spreadsheet outlines expectations, including selecting a leader to liaise with ESC, preparing updates for the next DROPS meeting, and scheduling WG meetings.

5.0 SME Presentation | Reliable Securing

"Shackles at 300 Feet? Here is our Catch". The presentation on the Green Pin® Catch Shackle is available on the DROPS Teams site.

Member Discussion:

The Secretariat asked if the practice is considered a standard in the industry. The presenter replied that it is not yet a standard. He explained that lifting plans typically focus on safe equipment, like shackles with high design factors and working load limits but rarely address falling objects. Despite this, the presenter believes safer options should be considered, especially on construction sites where many people could be at risk. Offshore, the risk is lower due to fewer people being in the line of fire. Therefore, while it is not currently a standard, the presenter highly recommends adopting these practices at high-risk sites like construction areas.

A member noted that while there will be situations where this practice is applicable, there will also be areas where it might not be. He mentioned a major construction project at their refinery in Lloydminster, where material handling at heights of 250 to 300 feet is a concern. Although they can tether tools, managing other materials is challenging. Despite not currently using these practices, the member sees potential for their application in certain scenarios.

A member highlighted a challenge affecting contractors more than producers. He referred to the reliable securing booklet, which lists items like diaper pins and clips as not recommended for use at height. When producers use these items, it can lead to incidents and corporate-wide bans. Manufacturers sometimes provide products using these clips, creating extra work



to find alternatives. Currently, the reliable securing document does not offer sufficient alternatives, requiring additional effort. He suggested considering options like the cotter pin to support contractors in these situations.

The Secretariat asked if operational observations and alternative options could be shared with DROPSOnline to improve reliable securing. A member mentioned that the Asia Pacific DROPS Chapter discussed alternatives like pivot point rue rings and proposed adding them to the reliable securing document. A one-pager on rue rings has been sent out for review. A member emphasized the importance of sharing observations and alternatives with DROPSOnline, especially when products require an MOC process due to restrictions.

The Chair asked about feedback on the new tethered shackles, noting complaints about using too many tethers. The presenter acknowledged the product is more complex and not widely prescribed on job sites. While supervisors and safety advocates are enthusiastic, workers find it cumbersome. He emphasized that despite the hassle, the product enhances safety by preventing accidents. The presenter suggested including the new product in regulations to ensure its use in lifting plans and hazard assessments.

A member asked about the usage of 4-point shackles versus 2-part shackles for lifting and hoisting. He noted that many crane companies prefer 2-part shackles because they are quicker and easier to use, and the pin remains secure under load. He was curious to know how many people in the group use 2-part shackles for these purposes. The presenter commented that he sees approximately 70% of companies using 4-part shackles, and their usage is increasing, especially in Europe and offshore work where regulations are stricter. In North America, 2-part shackles are more common

6.0 2025 Meeting Dates and Closing Remarks

Next meeting dates are (9:00 AM to 11:00 AM Mountain Time):

- June 5
- September 4

The Chair reminded the group to consider presenting or suggesting presenters for future meetings.

CAPP has asked ESC to conduct a one-day workshop in St. John's on June 11 to create better leverage across regions, not just in the west.

A member emailed the Secretariat a one-pager from Allen. He mentioned that it is in draft form and can be shared with the group, but he is unsure if membership is required to access industry feedback documents.

7.0 Adjournment

Action Item Table

Item	Description	Responsible	Status	Completed	Notes
2024-02	Provide contacts for manufacturing vendors we can invite to DROPS meeting - All members	All members		In progress	
2024-03	Volunteer for safety share during DROPS meetings - All members	All members		In progress Ongoing	
2024-04	Provide links for applicable trainings or information from CAGC for sharing with members or posting on ESC website - member.			In progress	
2024-05	ESC to expand DROPS presence into other areas.			In progress	ESC presenting at CAPP workshop in St. John's in June.
2024-06	ESC to reach out to Nord-Lock.	ESC		In progress	
2024-11	Create general bowtie which could be applied both in and outside the oil industry.			In progress	Ask for who can support this request during Sept meeting.
2025-1	Explore the possibility of ESC discussing dropped object regulations with OHS Alberta.	ESC		Open	Member noted that there is a lack of regulations around dropped objects.
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	
2025-3	Invite Crane Masters Hoisting and Rigging in Edmonton to present at a future meeting.	Abbey		Open	The company is involved in training and investigations related to dropped objects during hoisting and rigging operations across various industries.
2025-4	Members to present their DROPS journey during a CoP in 2026.	Member		Open	
2025-5	Conduct DROPS Workshop for CAPP Atlantic Region.	ESC	Preparation ongoing	Open	