



Meeting Minutes

Name:	DROPS Canadian Chapter
Function:	Community of Practice
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Date/Time:	February 5, 2026 9:00 am - 11:00 am (MT)

Executive Summary

The DROPS Canadian Chapter met to review recent incident trends, priorities for the 2026 work plan, and updates from both Energy Safety Canada (ESC) and DROPS Global.

Key Safety Insights

Recent Alberta data showed continued serious dropped-object incidents through 2025, including fatalities. Most occurred between May and October, with recurring causes such as unsecured equipment and objects falling from lower or grated platforms. Members were encouraged to increase reporting of incidents and near misses.

Leadership Update

A new Chair was appointed, with no change in the Co-Chair. The past Chair is stepping down from the Chair position but will continue as an active member.

ESC Strategy & Priorities

ESC emphasized its ongoing focus on Serious Injury and Fatality prevention, highlighting dropped objects as a key risk. Updates included enhanced digital training offerings, resources for young and inexperienced workers, and continued support for Communities of Practice. Survey results showed strong engagement and identified opportunities to increase producer participation, improve consistency in terminology, and expand use of dropped-object trend data.

Working Groups & 2026 Strategy

The chapter reviewed priorities from recent strategy sessions, including improving governance and structure for working groups, strengthening collaboration with regulatory and industry stakeholders, and producing practical, frontline-oriented tools that support consistent dropped-object controls.

Global DROPS Perspective

Guest speaker Allen Smith reinforced the importance of foundational practices such as securing, verification, inspections, and red-zone awareness. The group discussed both static and dynamic dropped-object scenarios and the continued need to recognize risks at all heights, including low-level tasks.



Meeting Minutes

1.0 Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed attendees, introduced the DROPS group, reviewed the agenda, and encouraged active participation.

2.0 Safety Share – AB OHS Incidents (presentation included in Teams site)

The Secretariat provided a safety share focused on recent dropped object incidents and the importance of increased awareness across organizations. The intent of the share was not only to highlight trends but also to encourage participants to report and share their own dropped object incidents, including near misses, so lessons learned can be communicated more broadly.

Incident Trends and Key Observations

Data shared from Alberta OHS highlighted a series of serious incidents occurring up to October 2025, including multiple fatalities. The events were concentrated primarily between May and October, with October showing the highest frequency. Common incident types included workers being struck by rig or equipment-related objects, with several events linked to unsecured equipment and objects falling from height.

Locations and Contributing Factors

The data showed certain geographic concentrations, with Wood Buffalo reporting the highest number of events. Analysis of the incidents pointed to recurring contributors such as unsecured equipment, lifting devices detaching from loads, and equipment falling onto rig floors during operations or maintenance activities. These trends reinforce the ongoing risks associated with dropped objects and line-of-fire exposures.

Reflection and Prevention

The Secretariat encouraged participants to reflect on their own operations, including work types and locations, to assess how these risks may apply within their organizations. Emphasis was placed on learning from past successes, applying consistent safe practices, and maintaining a focus on ensuring workers return home safely at the end of each day.

A participant shared observations that while traditional working-at-heights activities often have strong controls and fewer dropped object incidents, increased risk can occur during work on lower platforms or grated surfaces where tasks may not be perceived as working at heights, leading to complacency. The importance of applying the same level of tool control at all elevations was emphasized, including securing tools to prevent drops through grating, to better protect ground workers and reduce line-of-fire risks.

3.0 Review of Open Action Items

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



4.0 Leadership Change Announcement

An announcement was made regarding a leadership transition within the Community of Practice. The current Chair will be stepping down from the Chair role, the current member will continue in the role of Co-Chair. Appreciation was expressed to the past Chair for his leadership and contributions, and it was noted that he will remain an active member of the committee.

5.0 2025 Survey Results & Action Plan from Strategy Session Meetings (presentation included in Teams site)

Energy Safety Canada Overview and Strategic Focus

The Secretariat provided an overview of Energy Safety Canada for members who may be less familiar with the organization. Energy Safety Canada has been operating for nearly 80 years and has evolved through several organizational transitions. Despite ongoing industry efforts, serious incidents and fatalities continue to occur, prompting an increased focus on Serious Injury and Fatality (SIF) prevention. Dropped objects were identified as a key risk area where improved practices, collaboration, and shared learning can help prevent severe outcomes.

Energy Safety Canada's strategy is centered on three pillars: agile operations, training excellence, and industry impact. Across these pillars, SIF prevention remains a core priority, supported through expanded digital and online training delivery, updates to existing training programs, and the provision of free safety resources. Energy Safety Canada continues to support Communities of Practice, including DROPS, and collaborates with global partners such as DROPS Online to strengthen industry alignment and learning.

Programs, Industry Resources, and Engagement

The Secretariat highlighted several Energy Safety Canada initiatives, including multiple Communities of Practice and creative sentencing programs that fund the development of industry safety resources. Current initiatives include subsidized [Leadership for Safe Workplaces](#), programs focused on [protecting young, new and inexperienced workers](#), and upcoming workshops and best-practice rollouts. Members were encouraged to review Energy Safety Canada's [PSI Report](#), which includes dropped object and line-of-fire analysis, and to provide feedback to support continuous improvement.

DROPS Community of Practice Survey Results

The Secretariat reviewed results from the year-end DROPS Community of Practice survey and thanked the 14 respondents for their participation. Survey results demonstrated strong engagement and value, with all respondents indicating they gain value from participating in the CoP. Participants reported effective use of meeting time, clear objectives, and adequate preparation supported by advance agendas and pre-read materials. Most respondents also indicated they feel included and have opportunities to contribute during meetings.

Opportunities for Improvement and Future Focus

Survey feedback identified opportunities to further strengthen the Community of Practice, including increased producer involvement, stronger cross-chapter collaboration, and improved alignment of terminology across DROPS, Energy Safety Canada, and related initiatives.



Additional focus areas included greater use of data to support dropped object prevention, such as trend analysis, barrier assurance, and learning from high-potential near misses. Members were encouraged to continue sharing dropped object and line-of-fire events with Energy Safety Canada to support anonymized insight reporting. Emerging technologies, including AI, drones, sensors, and predictive analytics, were also identified as areas of interest for future exploration.

Working Groups and Action Priorities

The Secretariat emphasized the importance of active participation in the six established working groups, noting that their effectiveness depends on member engagement and shared ownership. Key priorities moving forward include strengthening strategic alignment, expanding industry engagement, improving accessibility, re-energizing working groups, and maintaining a focus on high-value topics that can drive meaningful change in dropped object prevention.

Strategy Session - Governance, Structure, and Next Steps

A summary of recent strategy discussions was presented, identifying priorities for strengthening governance, improving member engagement, and focusing initiatives that will support the 2026 work plan. Focus areas include governance and structure, standards and guidance, education and outreach, and collaboration across industry, regulatory, and government stakeholders.

Additional structure and leadership support will be provided to working groups to improve clarity around purpose, scope, and direction. These changes are intended to address early challenges and enable working groups to produce practical, frontline-focused outcomes that benefit the broader Community of Practice. Strategy outputs have been consolidated into defined focus areas and action plans, with emphasis placed on implementation rather than planning alone.

Members were encouraged to contribute where possible and support actions aligned with their expertise. The strategy and action plans will remain open for ongoing review, with opportunities for members to provide feedback and suggest additional initiatives as work progresses.

Industry Collaboration and Resource Sharing

The importance of sharing practical industry examples was highlighted, including dropped object programs and policies developed by producer organizations that could support smaller contractors. Members were encouraged to share available resources, which will be made accessible to the broader group alongside Energy Safety Canada best-practice materials.

6.0 SME Presentation and Q&A

Allen Smith | DROPS Global & Collaborative Opportunities (presentation included in Teams site)

The guest presentation focused on DROPS Global activities and a strong “back-to-basics” approach to dropped object prevention. Emphasis was placed on the fact that DROPS resources, guidance, tools, and best practices are freely available and intended to support



organizations across the full equipment lifecycle, from design through decommissioning. While emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, cameras, and virtual reality are showing promise, the presentation reinforced that fundamental principles—understanding gravity as a constant hazard, effective hazard identification, and consistent application of basic controls—remain critical to preventing serious incidents.

Key themes included the importance of recognizing dropped object risks at all heights, including low-level tasks that are often overlooked, and the need to consider both static and dynamic dropped object scenarios. Practical examples were used to illustrate how failures can occur due to design limitations, incorrect installation, inadequate maintenance, human factors, and changes over time within an equipment lifecycle. The presentation highlighted the role of reliable securing, including clear understanding of primary fixings, secondary retention, and safety securing, as well as the need for verification, inspection, and risk ranking to ensure controls remain effective throughout operations.

The presentation also addressed learning from incidents beyond task completion, emphasizing that dropped object risks can persist during task handover, equipment release, and subsequent activities. Red zone management and the risk of “red zone creep” were discussed, along with the need for continued vigilance even as equipment slows or tasks appear complete. Allen highlighted ongoing global collaboration across DROPS chapters, continued development of guidance materials, and future updates incorporating lessons learned and emerging technology. Participants were encouraged to share incidents, apply existing tools consistently, and remain engaged in collective efforts to reduce dropped object risks across the industry.

CoP Discussion:

A participant emphasized that changes in scope often require a reassessment of hazards and noted that this step is frequently overlooked at the frontline level. Attention was drawn to potential complacency around tool condition, tethering, and inspection practices, particularly when compared to more formal inspection regimes such as harness inspections. The importance of regular inspections and consistent pre-use checks was highlighted, with structured tools or checklists identified as a way to improve consistency.

The participant also referenced the use of a dropped-object deflection chart as a valuable visual aid for understanding the cone of exposure and supporting improved task planning. The sharing of external industry resources and presentations was suggested as a way to further strengthen awareness and engagement.

In response, it was confirmed that deflection charts and similar tools are already incorporated into training and have influenced how tasks are approached, including barrier placement and reassessment when previously unrecognized hazards are identified. Increased awareness of exposure zones was noted as contributing to improved controls and the development of new retention systems.

The discussion expanded to reinforce that dropped-object hazards exist in everyday environments and are driven by gravity in all settings. Emphasis was placed on implementing



controls that allow work to fail safely, shared responsibility across the industry, and continued collaboration to reduce serious incidents and fatalities related to dropped objects

** Note: Resources can be found in the DROPS CoP Teams site, [Energy Safety Canada - Dropped Objects](#) and [NLG® - Never Let Go | Global Tool Tethering Experts](#).

7.0 2026 Meeting Dates and Closing Remarks

Our upcoming virtual meetings will be held from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM Mountain Time.

Meeting Dates:

- **April 2** - Virtual
- **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.

8.0 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 ESC 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 Safety Shares are asked to contact ESC.
2024-06	ESC to reach out to Nord-Lock.	ESC	Q1-2026	Complete	Member will provide ESC with a contact at Nord-Lock. Update: A rep from Nord-Lock has joined the CoP.
2024-11	Create general bowtie which could be applied both in and outside the oil industry.			In progress	Confirm support for this request at the September meeting. Sept 2025 Update: Member will explore sharing his company's resource. He will also review the general version available on the ESC website to determine if the two are comparable.
2025-1	Explore the possibility of ESC discussing dropped object regulations with OHS Alberta.	ESC	March 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. March 2026: Contacts established with AB OHS. Meeting already scheduled
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		Open	
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	