



DROPS

DROPS Canadian Chapter



Another member questioned ESC's thoughts on improving competency and asked what the industry is doing about it. He noted that DROPS training isn't mandatory like H₂S or First Aid and wondered why that is the case. The Chair added that he joined this group when his company was experiencing many incidents with dropped objects. As they delved deeper into their investigations and communicated lessons learned to more people, they found even more incidents because people began reporting them more frequently, which is what they want. He pointed out that one of the issues they face when presenting results to leaders is that they often acknowledge the problem but note that there is no legislation mandating this training until an issue arises on site.

The Secretariat explained that ESC holds meetings like this to discuss issues and find a way forward. Regarding complacency, they have invited an expert to speak on HOP. On the competency side, ESC has many resources on their website and is forming working groups. By identifying key issues, these groups can develop helpful opportunities for the industry.

A member asked if any advocacy has been done with Occupational Health and Safety Alberta to look at regulations around dropped objects. He noted that there is a lack of regulations concerning controls and requirements, particularly in Alberta. The member suggested that there is an opportunity for the group to network and bring a proposal forward. The Secretariat said he will escalate this matter within Energy Safety Canada. He notes that while we are not primarily an advocacy organization, we can explore the extent of our influence through our government engagements.

The Secretariat explained that he tried to approach CSA to develop a standard for dropped objects, but CSA responded that they were not interested. The reason given was that there is already a standard from the US ANSI, which is primarily for manufacturers and does not cover the full scope of dropped objects. CSA seemed to feel that this existing standard was sufficient. As a result, ESC has decided to stop pushing for it at this time.

A member emphasized the need for a significant push with OHS in Alberta and eventually expanding across all provinces. He mentioned a recent minor change in Alberta OHS regulations, specifically in Part 37 of the code, which now requires ensuring equipment is secure before raising the derrick. However, Mark feels this change is insufficient. He highlighted the need for a unified standard that everyone can follow, pointing out that different perspectives from various parties create confusion for rig companies, as they receive conflicting instructions. This back-and-forth makes it challenging for those working in the field.

Another member explained that regulators often follow the hazard assessment protocol, which requires contractors to establish protocols to prevent objects from dropping based on their assessments. He noted that regulators sometimes prefer to keep guidelines vague to avoid being held accountable themselves, placing the responsibility back on the contractors.



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3. Review of 2024 Survey Results: CoP & ESC Action Plan Implementation

The Secretariat thanked everyone for responding to the surveys conducted last year. He emphasized that an action plan has been developed based on the survey results, and future meetings will provide updates on progress. He stressed the importance of everyone working together to implement the solutions from the action plan.

The Chair encouraged everyone not to wait for the survey to share their ideas. If members have any topics they'd like to explore, need information on, or have suggestions for presenters to explain specific topics at our meetings, to please let ESC know.

2024 Survey Action Plan/1

	Actions	Timeline
1	Continue industry outreach through the members. Identify industries with similar interests on DROPS and solicit their participation.	
2	Review dropped object research outcome from Construction Safety Research Alliance (CSRA).	
3	Form sub-coms on topics of interest with SMART outcome.	
4	Reach out to colleges and universities with interests in dropped object prevention.	
5	Extend DROPS collaboration opportunities to industry organizations based in Canada East Coast.	
6	Explore partnership with provincial regulators by inviting them to present at our meetings.	
7	Provide overview on currently available resources on DROPS. Share regularly resources received from other groups on DROPS.	

Survey Action Plan/2

	ACTIONS	Timeline
8	Identify speakers on critical controls, managing static objects and PSIs for dropped object prevention.	
9	Invite member companies to share their DROPS program for others to leverage.	
10	Consider developing an Industry Recommended Practice, focusing on drilling, completion, production, pipeline, etc.	
11	Continue Learning from Incidents presentation from members.	
12	Call for DO data submission from members.	
13	Schedule respondents for specific topics delivery in the CoP meetings.	
14	Explore consultant opportunity in growing the chapter.	
15	Evaluate meeting agenda and time allocated for each.	
16	Continue to encourage members to present at the meetings to grow speaking confidence in the public, e.g. through safety share.	



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Survey Action Plan/2

	ACTIONS	Timeline
17	Explore more speakers outside DROPS product vendors. <u>Wrok</u> with members to identify non-sales speakers.	
18	Seek opportunities to expand the CoP's footprint outside Western Canada through consultations with members and <u>idenfying</u> issues in other Canadian jurisdictions.	

A member observed that some feedback indicated a focus on Western Canada and the oil field industry. He acknowledged that this focus is likely because many participants are from the oil field sector. However, the member emphasized that much of the information is applicable to other industries as well. He suggested that involving other industries and sharing their insights could significantly enhance engagement across various sectors.

The Chair shared that when he first looked for information on dropped objects, most recommendations were from overseas. When he tried to apply these recommendations to refineries and other plants, people often dismissed them as specific to certain activities. The Chair emphasized that the principles are the same—gravity and the need for protection are universal. He agreed that while people often associate these recommendations with specific industries, they are applicable to any industry.

The Secretariat mentioned that regarding action #5, CAPP has asked ESC to conduct a workshop on the east coast in June 2025. He emphasized that gravity is a universal issue and highlighted this as an opportunity for collaboration.

Regarding action #6, the Secretariat suggested using these meetings to attract regulators and highlight the issues related to dropped objects. By participating, regulators can see the incidents firsthand and consider evolving regulations to provide a consistent platform for inspections and hazard identification.

A member expressed excitement about the focus on critical controls. He believes there's an opportunity for the CoP to come together and identify what is deemed critical. He suggested developing a bow tie model that everyone can align on for critical controls and thinks this would greatly help in further interactions with regulators and standardizing what is considered critical.

The Secretariat shared the 2025 Presentation Plan and asked members if they are interested in doing a main presentation or safety share. A member will be presenting at the April 3 meeting on their DROPS Well Delivery Journey. A member suggested to consider inviting Crane Masters Hoisting and Rigging in Edmonton. The company is involved in training and investigations related to dropped objects during hoisting and rigging operations across various industries.

The Chair informed the group that the [Dropped Object Exclusion Zone Tool](#) and the [Dropped Objects Video](#), developed by this CoP, is now used and shared globally, highlighting the importance of their work. Members were told if they are interested in taking the [DROPS e-Learning course](#), they can get a 20% registration discount using the code DROPSDESC.



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4. Working Groups: Interest & Assignment

The Chair mentioned that one of ESC's new initiatives is to create focused working groups to concentrate on specific activities and future work. The proposal is to have a leader for each working group, with assigned members or volunteers working towards specific results. This approach will be implemented across all ESC CoPs and committees.

The Secretariat invited the group to express their interest in joining any of the listed Working Groups (see below). If you would like to participate but need approval from your organization or have other suggestions, please contact ESC. The Chair suggested adding the WG discussion to the next meeting agenda to remind and invite new members to participate.

One member says he has done a lot of work in this space. He organized a think tank at his workplace which produced a detailed report using a protective system analysis barrier model, combining various investigations and drawing valuable conclusions. The member expressed his desire to share the report with the group but needs approval from his safety director first.

5. SME Presentation and Q&A - ESC HOP - (presentation included)

The presenter shared a short video: [Dropped objects when working at height](#). Following the video, he raised several questions to the group, emphasizing the importance of evaluating the effort and preparedness of the team in the video. He highlighted the need to consider the difference between how work is imagined and how it is actually done when assigning tasks.

The Chair emphasized the importance of shifting the focus from blaming workers to improving processes. He shared that leaders often initially blame individuals for dropped objects, rather than examining the underlying processes. The Chair stressed the need for more robust processes to ensure that if something fails, it fails safely. He noted the challenge in convincing people to conduct thorough analyses and check-ins, explaining that dropped objects are often due to factors like corrosion, not worker negligence.

The presenter explained the oil and gas industry's interest in safety trends, highlighting that while fatalities in Alberta and Saskatchewan have decreased over the years, they have flatlined in the last five years or so. He pointed out that other industries have maintained consistent fatality rates, but the oil and gas sector has struggled to make significant improvements recently. The presenter emphasized the need to find ways to break this flatline and achieve better safety outcomes...moving beyond traditional safety (Safety I to Safety II).

The presenter then reviewed the slide on "Changing our Perspective", changing our thinking our thinking from *Traditional* to *Safety Differently or HOP View*. He emphasized the importance of shifting from blaming the worker to understanding their perspective. He highlighted the need to have conversations with workers to understand how they found themselves in certain situations and how the work unfolded. The presenter pointed out that while workers are a part of the process, they do not plan, design, or set the pace of work, nor do they determine all the tools and equipment used. He stated that a safe company is a company with capacity to fail safe.

The presenter then discussed Tony Muschara's Critical Steps and explained the Five Principles of HOP, and highlighted how organizations can evolve their safety culture.



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The presenter addressed the concept of safety clutter and its implications. He suggested the group conduct a mini-experiment by examining a small area of work and asking their workforce if the procedures, practices, and SOPs reflect the actual work being done. He emphasized the importance of having honest conversations, noting that taking the time to do so would reveal what is not helpful for ensuring safe work practices.

The presenter emphasized that Energy Safety Canada is committed to not losing sight of critical risks when evolving safety practices. He stressed the need to identify what is truly critical in the workplace, as not everything can be critical. He urged the group to focus on identifying and managing intolerable risks.

The presenter compared the concepts of *variability* and *competency* and the importance of setting your workers up for success.

Regarding *error modes*, the presenter explained the importance of identifying brittle points in the system where, if one thing goes wrong, something catastrophic could happen. He noted that workers have varying levels of risk tolerance. He illustrated this with an example: all the experiences in your life influence how you face new challenges (e.g, growing up in the country vs. the city, hunting, camping, playing sports). These learned experiences help to assess risk. The presenter pointed out that if you bring non-industrial people into an industrial environment, they may not make good decisions about risk and risk awareness.

The presenter explained the differences between skill-based, rule-based, and knowledge-based performance error modes:

- **Skills-based:** These are routine tasks that we perform regularly.
- **Rules-based:** These tasks are done less frequently and require referring to procedures like SOPs. The need to cognitively process these steps increases the chance of errors.
- **Knowledge-based:** These involve new tasks where the individual lacks the necessary knowledge to make informed decisions. Proceeding with such tasks without proper understanding can be dangerous, especially in critical or hazardous environments.

The presenter informed the group that he will be hosting a Learning Teams session in Calgary on April 23 and 24, alongside Brent Sutton and Jeff Lyth from Learning Teams Inc. He encouraged anyone interested to contact Abbey.

6. Next Meeting Dates: 2025 (9:00am-11:00am Mountain Time)

- April 3
- June 5
- September 4

7. Adjournment



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Action Item Table

Item	Description	Responsible	Completed	Status	Notes
2024-01	Members to be added to the DROPS Canadian Chapter ESC Teams Site		February 9, 2024	Completed	
2024-02	Provide contacts for manufacturing vendors we can invite to DROPS meeting - All members			In progress	
2024-03	Volunteer for safety share during DROPS meetings - All members			In progress	
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	
2024-06	ESC to reach out to Nord-Lock.			In progress	
2024-07	A member to inform the BC Forest Council about DROPS Canadian Chapter.		May 14, 2024	Completed	An email sent to member with no response so far
2024-08	Members to present at a future date about drops journey.			In progress	
2024-09	ESC to see if the DROPS course can be listed on the ESC website alongside other courses.		August 28, 2024	Completed	
2024-10	Create incident learning folder for use by CoP members.		August 28, 2024	Completed	
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
2024-12	Collate vendor literatures for reliable securing tools, including Crosby rigging equipment.		August 28, 2024	Completed	Crosby Rigging Dept DROPS Online Reliable Securing Dropsafe 3M Fall Protection Ty-Flot Neverletgo Gravitec
2024-13	Provide a link to DROPS eLearn course on ESC website		August 28, 2024	Completed	DROPS e-Learning course



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2024-14	Share Allen Smith's presentation slide.		September 5, 2024	Completed	
2025-1	Explore the possibility of ESC discussing dropped object regulations with OHS Alberta.	Abbey	Feb 6, 2025	Open	Member noted that there is a lack of regulations around dropped objects.
2025-2	Create a unified bow tie model for critical controls to aid interactions with regulators and standardize what is considered critical.	Incident and Analysis Working Group	Feb 6, 2025	Open	
2025-3	Invite Crane Masters Hoisting and Rigging in Edmonton to present at a future meeting.	Abbey	Feb 6, 2025	Open	The company is involved in training and investigations related to dropped objects during hoisting and rigging operations across various industries.