



MEETING MINUTES

Name: DROPS Canadian Chapter
Function: Community of Practice
Type: Standing
TOR: Version 1.4
Date/Time: June 5, 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. As the chair was unavailable, the vice-chair stepped in to host the meeting. The vice-chair reviewed the agenda and emphasized the importance of active participation.

2.0 Safety Moment/Ice Breaker (Review of Recent Fatal Events)

Presentation included in the DROPS Teams Site.

The presentation addressed the recent fatality on a drilling rig in Alberta involving a major producer. The presenter referenced a publicly available document from Volant that outlines the incident and emphasized the importance of both proactive and reactive safety measures. The presenter encouraged any Alberta-based producers needing support or wanting to discuss safety strategies to reach out to him directly.

Group Comments:

The Secretariat emphasized that ESC serves as a platform to collect and share industry incidents, helping organizations learn from each other and prevent similar events from recurring. ESC President and CEO added that there's a need to improve the speed at which these details are shared. ESC is collaborating with CEOs and COOs to streamline this process. Given the seriousness of the recent DROPS incident, ESC is encouraging companies to make internal reports public—anonimized if necessary—so critical information can be shared more broadly.

3.0 Review of Open Action Items

Members are encouraged to review the action item table that concludes the minutes.

4.0 Working Group Updates

All WG members are volunteers. A [task spreadsheet](#) was created based on the 2024 survey results. Updates will be provided once working groups have had a chance to review and discuss their assigned tasks. Each working group is responsible for selecting its own leader. To support communication, ESC will send emails to each group and share contact information directly, so members don't need to rely solely on the MS Teams site. The secretariat



emphasized that the objective of the working groups is to encourage engagement and active participation in group activities.

ACTION 2025-6: ESC to email all members with a list of working group assignments and contact details to facilitate communication.

Abbey shared a portion of the video [DROPS Training in Virtual Reality: How to get started](#) video, highlighting that virtual reality offers a valuable opportunity for training in a risk-free environment.

5.0 SME Presentation | DROPS Awareness

Evolving Technologies in Dropped Object Prevention

The presenter was the Training and Technical Manager at [Never Let Go](#), a company recognized as one of the global market leaders in tool tethering solutions. The presenter brings valuable expertise to the field, helping drive safety and innovation through effective training and technical support.

Member Comments:

A member asked about the coldest temperature tools are tested at. The presenter responded that they test from -35°C up to 100°C. The member also raised concerns about using thread lock in DROPS applications, noting it's not recommended because it's difficult to confirm whether it's been applied or what type was used. The presenter added that thread lock itself isn't tested and stressed the importance of operators performing daily checks. If a tool isn't properly inspected, there's a risk it could come loose.

The presenter shared that *Never Let Go* typically launches new products at the A+A PPE event in Düsseldorf, Germany. He described a recent case where the team quickly developed a new wire reel holder to address a known issue. Within weeks, they went from concept to prototype and delivered the first shipment.

In response to the member's question about certification, the presenter confirmed that all products undergo third-party testing before being released. While prototypes are produced quickly, certification and CE marking are completed once an order is placed, ensuring compliance and safety.

A member shared feedback regarding tool bags used in a cross-project order. Although the bags were not from *Never Let Go (NLG)*, challenges were noted—particularly the black interior, which makes it difficult to see and manage tethered tools. The member emphasized that tethering tools is more complex than it may appear. The member acknowledged this, noting that NLG received similar feedback in earlier years and has since updated their bag interiors to their signature NLG green for improved visibility.

The presenter also explained that NLG specializes in tool tethering—not PPE harnesses or large equipment—and that their product development is driven by user feedback. For example, their phone case is now in its fifth version, reflecting ongoing improvements. Their



focus is on creating simple, effective, and user-friendly solutions, as tools that are difficult to use often go unused.

A member asked whether the reluctance to share safety data—particularly regarding dropped objects and serious incidents—is unique to Canada or seen globally. The presenter responded that, unfortunately, this hesitation is common worldwide. Companies are often unwilling to share full details of incidents, even when external experts are brought in to help investigate.

He shared an example from the UK, where a company reported a dropped 5-foot steel breaker bar but provided minimal information, only describing it as a “glancing blow.” The presenter noted that this lack of transparency is typical, though some regions, like New York, have shown more openness. For instance, during a recent rope access symposium, an incident involving a dropped hammer from the Empire State Building was openly discussed.

The presenter emphasized that underreporting is a major issue. Many dropped object incidents go unreported because no one was injured or no damage occurred, leading workers to simply retrieve the tool and move on. He stressed that this lack of reporting poses a significant risk, as it prevents learning and improvement across the industry.

The Secretariat asked why, despite having the right tools and procedures in place, workers sometimes choose not to use them as intended. He questioned whether any research had been done into this behavior.

The presenter responded that while no formal research has been conducted, his field experience offers insight. Common reasons include resistance to change (“we’ve always done it this way”) and frustration with mismatched equipment—especially lanyards that are either too long (causing interference) or too short (creating tension). These issues often lead workers to avoid using the tools altogether.

He emphasized that proper training is essential. Many workers don’t fully understand how to select or use the right tethering equipment. That’s why NLG invests in global training—to ensure users are equipped with the knowledge to use tools effectively and safely.

6.0 2025 Meeting Dates and Closing Remarks

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

- September 4

We are currently looking for a speaker for our September meeting. If you know someone who would be a great fit, or if you’re interested in presenting yourself, please contact ESC.

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		Ongoing	
2024-04	Provide links for applicable trainings or information from CAGC for sharing with members or posting on ESC website - member.		June 5, 2025	Complete	www.cagclearns.ca
2024-05	ESC to expand DROPS presence into other areas.		June 5, 2025	Complete	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	Confirm support for this request at the September 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.	ESC		Open	The company is involved in training and investigations related to dropped objects during hoisting and rigging operations across various industries. Update: Meeting with Crane Masters virtually tomorrow - Sept 5
2025-4	Members to present their DROPS journey during a CoP in 2026.	Member		Open	Awaiting further updates.
2025-5	Conduct DROPS Workshop for CAPP Atlantic Region.	ESC	June 11, 2025	Complete	Workshop to be held June 11.
2025-6	ESC to email all WG members with a list of working group assignments and contact details to facilitate communication.	ESC	June 10, 2025	Complete	WG contact emails sent June 10.