



**DROPS**

# DROPS Canadian Chapter



## MEETING MINUTES



**Name:** DROPS Canadian Chapter  
**Function:** Community of Practice  
**Type:** Standing  
**TOR Version:** Version 1.4  
**Date/Time:** June 6, 2024, 9:00 MST

### 1. Welcome by the Chair, Review Agenda and Meeting Expectations

The meeting started at 9:00 am. All members were encouraged to participate actively in the Chapter. He shared some of the benefits available to members.

Permission to record the meeting, minus the speaker session, was obtained.

### 2. Safety Moment/Ice Breaker

A member shared a safety moment of an incident where some concrete fell 12 meters from height. A skid steer loader operator entered an area to perform a clean-up. While underneath the apron feeder, a 19kg (43lbs) piece of concrete debris fell from approximately 12m (40 feet) and struck the skid steer loader, damaging the windshield.

The member explained that the incident was caused due to miscommunication between two different construction groups. The two groups held a conversation based on the idea that one group would be scheduled for a set amount of time and the other group would be scheduled for a separate section of time. However, there was no clear communication after this agreement and so both groups arrived on the worksite at the same time and began work. This ultimately led to the incident as the group conducting demolition were working while the group conducting the clearing of the area resulting in the group below to be in the line of fire leading to debris falling on the skid steer loader.

The member went on to describe how conversation occurred between the two groups after the incident occurred, but no procedure was written to clarify roles and times of work for both groups. A secondary drop occurred later while a group went in to clear the area however no injury or damage was caused to a worker or equipment. The worker left the area and notified supervision. Work areas were shut down. Access to the area was red flagged after the incident and hard barricades were installed to limit access.

From the incident, they learned that there wasn't a procedure in place to identify a safe method to perform demolition activities. The controls that were documented in reviews, plans, and company standards were not in place. And there was no process in place to communicate between various trades to coordinate work activities. Members discussed the incident, what learnings they could take away from it, and their own experiences with similar incidents.

The member recommended that it would have improved the safety of the worksite to have cleared any debris before the demolition groups shift ended. He also mentioned that



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a concise procedure and documentation to control and record hazards when they occur would have also helped. He also recommended review of the procedure in place and formal communication established between the two groups. An additional recommendation he made that would have increased the safety of the worksite were regular inspections of the work area to ensure that there were no possible drop hazards or to add guardrails around the worksite.

Another member commented on how the safety moment topic was a great example of how drop hazards are not just found in the oil field but also in construction. He went on to comment on how drop hazards are becoming more common in multiple industries showcasing the importance of increasing drop awareness.

The Chair responded to the member's comments by pointing out that drops is often considered something that occurs alongside worker error. The Chair pointed out that drops can also occur due to vibrations, or a failure of fireproofing efforts.

A member brought up a related example to the comment about drops being caused by factors other than human error. He did so by discussing an incident in Calgary a few years ago when the wind caused construction materials to drop onto a young pedestrian below, resulting in a fatality. He also brought up another incident he investigated where the top layer of snow on a moving trucker blew off blinding the drivers behind the moving truck causing an accident. An additional member brought up both these examples to illustrate that dropped objects are not just tools or other items used in construction but also the environment of the worksite.

An Energy Safety Canada representative commented on how the knowledge of exclusion zones and deflection are important when considering worker safety in a worksite.

### **3. Survey Action Plan Updates**

The Secretariat updated the group on the current action plan status. He added that responses for the survey are useful to preventing drop hazards and asked the members present to submit a survey response. He went over the action plan for the survey responses to showcase how the survey was a useful tool to improving safety in a worksite.

### **4. Group Discussion**

The Secretariat led the discussion on the three questions below.

**Available DROPS resources: Do you know where they are and how can we make these readily available to industry? Have you ever used any? If yes, how useful?**

A member mentioned he was aware of the ESC recommended practices on how to build a drop policy found on the Energy Safety Canada website. However, he also mentioned he found it difficult to find those resources on the website. He specifically commented on the fact that he could find those resources due to his experience with the site but commented on how it may be difficult to find those resources for an individual browsing the website.



The Secretariat informed the group that this is a valid concern that ESC is aware of and is actively working to improve with their new website launch, which he said should be launched by the end of the year.

He then went over how to find the resources referred to in the current ESC website for reference use later by the participants of the meeting.

A member commented on his use of ESC resources to finalise his hazard plans around drop hazards. Abbey thanked him for his feedback and once again asked if there was any person online who knew how to find the resources referenced.

Another member commented on how he also used the ESC resources but, in the past, found them difficult to find. He also agreed that the drops information should be on the home page for easier access and use. He also commented on how the resources in place may need to be updated due to their current age but agreed that the resources referred to were useful for creation of hazard plans.

**Additional DROPS Resources: What resources are missing and how can the Chapter rally members for their development? (CSA is looking into creating DROPS Standard for Canada.)**

The group was asked what resources are missing and what can the Chapter work on developing to fill those gaps?

One member said an area they could look at is an incident learning folder that is more broadly available so people can share with their companies, instead of having to be on the chapter. He also mentioned that a bunch of companies are working on some bowtie work which could be beneficial.

The Chair thanked him for his ideas and suggested making a more general bowtie work which could be applied both in and outside the oil industry.

Another member suggested providing some literature for vendors for the application of these tools. He mentioned how within reliable securing there is generally a surplus of discussion about what is and is not allowed. However, there are deficiencies seen in the application of these tools and how resource on safety in relation to these tools are hard to find. He gave the example of primary and secondary securements, and also some rigging equipment. He suggested that the information should be gathered in one location for ease of access.

The Chair said that we do have some documentation available. What was done was taking some DROPS Online content and putting a Canadian lens on it. He encourages people to inform the group of any errors that they may find. He also mentioned that it was a generally positive thing that this committee is in contact with committees international through DROPS Online.

A member spoke to the need to define some of the terms so there's a collective understanding. An example he gave is if there's a difference between a falling object and a dropped object. Another member said the guide covers this by defining the objects as a dynamic or static drop. He also brought up how the precise definition between the two matters commenting on the idea that if a tree when it is cut lands on someone is that still



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a falling object despite the intentionality of the act. He points out the importance of how definition can be important for hazard assessments. He also comments on the idea of having a list of examples that an individual could source for safety procedure in specific common incidents in a workplace.

The Secretariat then mentioned that the CSA is looking to create a DROPS Standard for Canada. He attended one of their conferences last year and asked if this could be something that could be created. They recently approached him about how to move this forward. He is going to be presenting to them on June 12 to make a case of why there should be a standard for this. If anyone is interested in participating in the development in the standard, to reach out to him.

He talked about a case incident where 12 people died due to a dropped chlorine tank to showcase why dropped object training is necessary. He then points the need to create a comprehensive standard to mitigate risks associated with dropped objects. Abbey also discussed how he will bring awareness of the chapter's existence to the CSA committee during their creation of a standard for dropped objects.

### **DROPS Training: What are the challenges in accessing and taking the DROPS eLearn Module**

A member brought attention to the fact that the DROPS course is not listed alongside the Energy Safety Canada courses on the website. The Secretariat presented some context to why DROPS Online is hosting the course. He is taking an action item away to see if he can have our DROPS Course listed more prominently on our website.

The Secretariat put out that the current training is available at 80% of the current costs and that such an action was taken to increase the availability of the training. He also mentioned how the training due to overhead costs and production cost could not be produced to be disturbed without a price. However, he once again points out there exists a 20% discount available for such courses.

A member also commented that a lot of the vendors have their own internal DROPS training, and that can contribute to part of the issue. The barrier may be is that because they already have their own training, there is less appetite to make employees take additional training.

Another member was wondering who the targeted audience was with the efforts. He wanted to know if employees are supposed to take it. He recommended targeting supervisors with this information. He commented that lots of workers have already had a lot of training and with the sheer amount of training, usually free training is the desired training. He also pointed out that training has generally become expensive for companies and that employees are saturated with training models they are required to do. But he said that a case can be made if the supervisors are convinced that their site performance will improve by taking the course.

To wrap up, the group was shown a list of existing DROPS Resources that have already been developed, he also showed attendees how to navigate to the DROPS resources on the Energy Safety Canada website.



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### **5. Break**

The group paused for a 10-minute break.

### **6. SME Presentation and Q&A - 3M**

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At the request of 3M, this part of the meeting was not recorded.

Members can look at the 3M catalogue: [https://www.3mcanada.ca/3M/en\\_CA/worker-health-safety-ca/fall-protection/fall-protection-for-tools/](https://www.3mcanada.ca/3M/en_CA/worker-health-safety-ca/fall-protection/fall-protection-for-tools/)

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### **7. Next Meeting Dates: 2024**

Final meeting of 2024 will take place on September 5.

<b>Proposed 2025 dates:</b> February 6, April 3, June 5, September 4 (let us know of any concern on these dates).
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### **8. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:53 am.



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## Action Item Table

Item #	Item Description	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	Abbey to reach out to Nord-Lock		In progress	
2024-07	Member to inform the BC Forest Council about DROPS Canadian Chapter	May 14, 2024	Completed	An email sent to the 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	



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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	<a href="#">Crosby Rigging Dept</a> <a href="#">DROPS Online Reliable Securing Dropsafe</a> <a href="#">3M Fall Protection</a> <a href="#">Ty-Flot</a> <a href="#">Neverletgo</a> <a href="#">Gravitec</a>
2024-13	Provide a link to DROPS eLearn course on ESC website	August 28, 2024	Completed	