



## MEETING MINUTES

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**Name:** DROPS Canadian Chapter  
**Function:** Community of Practice  
**Type:** Standing  
**TOR:** Version 1.4  
**Date/Time:** September 4, 2025  
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (MDT)

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### 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 – Securing risk: Harnessing bowties and critical controls to prevent dropped of falling objects

Presentation will be uploaded to the DROPS Teams Site once received.

#### Group Comments:

The Chair asked about the main types of dropped objects, noting a shift from personal tool drops to issues like corrosion and maintenance-related risks. The presenter confirmed that static dropped objects—particularly those caused by corrosion and erosion—remain the top concern, especially as aging facilities and the integration of another company have increased exposure to these risks.

A member asked how the static object checklist was rolled out and applied across locations. The presenter explained that it was integrated into weekly field inspections by EHS teams and also embedded into maintenance workflows. Teams are expected to use the checklist during work authorizations to confirm controls are in place. The checklist is digital and managed through the Enablon platform.

The Secretariat asked if the bowtie model used could be shared more broadly to support learning, especially for medium and smaller companies with fewer resources. The presenter responded that it should be possible to share pending review by the company's communications and legal teams.

The Chair noted that DROPS incidents were previously blamed on workers but emphasized the importance of proper investigation to identify root causes. At some companies, the maintenance group took ownership by developing checklists and inspection processes. He highlighted the need for clear definitions of DROPS across locations and acknowledged that control measures are still evolving.

**Action 1:** Presenter to share slide deck and bowtie shown during the meeting (if approved by company).



### 3.0 Review of Open Action Items

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

### 4.0 Strategy Session Meeting/Working Group Updates

The Secretariat expressed appreciation to the various groups and individuals who contributed to the strategy session and helped recruit new members. He reminded everyone that DROPS is not limited to the oil and gas sector and encouraged members to invite others who may benefit from participating or to reach out to the House team for support. The Secretariat shared two dropped object alerts (provided by a CoP member), reinforcing that DROPS applies across all industries. To facilitate sharing, a folder will be created in the Teams channel for submitted member alerts. The group also discussed challenges in sharing events, often due to legal concerns; however, ESC is actively working with executives to improve the speed and ease of sharing. Recently, ESC was able to publish an [Industry-Submitted Bulletin](#) to support this initiative.

**Action 2:** Members to invite organizations in their network to join DROPS Canadian Chapter.

#### Strategy Session Summary

The Secretariat discussed the strategy session that was held in August with a small group of CoP members. The overall goal of the session was to develop a strategic plan to improve member engagement and enhance the chapter's impact on the industry.

**DROPS Chapter Structure & Purpose:** The Secretariat shared a slide outlining the DROPS structure, emphasizing the original intent from DROPS Online: chapters should collaborate and share knowledge. A dropped object incident in one location is likely to recur elsewhere if not communicated, and educational resources from one chapter can benefit others.

**Terms of Reference (TOR) Review:** The group reflected on whether the chapter is fulfilling its TOR. The consensus was that improvements are needed, particularly in member engagement and collaboration. The Secretariat encouraged members to consider how they can contribute to the chapter's sustainability and visibility within the industry.

**Performance Overview:** A slide showing attendance and activity from 2021 to 2025 was reviewed. While 2024 showed strong participation, 2025 attendance is trending downward, averaging around 21 attendees. The Secretariat acknowledged and appreciated new members joining the session.

#### Challenges Identified

- Low motivation and engagement among members
- Logistical difficulties with in-person meetings
- Reluctance from large companies to share dropped object data
- Lack of strategies to engage manufacturers, universities, and regulators

**Value of Meetings:** The Secretariat stressed that meetings should add value and not be held simply out of routine. The goal is to foster meaningful collaboration and engagement.



**SWOT Analysis:** The group conducted a SWOT analysis to assess the chapter's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. This exercise helped clarify the chapter's current position and areas for growth.

**Strategic Outcomes & Priorities:** Key themes from the strategy session included:

- **Strategic Priorities:** The Secretariat emphasized the need to enhance alignment across DROPS chapters, strengthen accountability within working groups, and improve the communication and timely sharing of safety alerts and resources. He noted that some serious incidents are only being shared months after they occur, and ESC is working to improve the speed of initial notifications.
- **Engagement Challenges:** While membership is growing, active participation remains low—particularly between meetings. The Secretariat highlighted that engagement often drops off until the next scheduled session. He encouraged members to find ways to stay involved outside of formal meetings. Contractors are currently the most active participants but may hesitate to challenge producers. The Secretariat acknowledged contributions from producers and a member called for broader producer involvement to help influence safety practices across the industry.
- **Working Group Effectiveness:** The current working group structure is fragmented. The Secretariat proposed prioritizing fewer working groups with clear deliverables, funding pathways, and support from ESC. A voting activity was introduced to help identify which working group should be the initial focus, with results to guide future planning.
- **Information & Standards:** Incident sharing is often delayed due to legal concerns, and existing standards lag behind evolving technologies. The group discussed the need to update guidance documents—such as those on reliable securing—to better reflect current challenges and innovations.
- **Regulatory & Industry Collaboration:** Dropped objects remain a low regulatory priority outside Saskatchewan, where they are specifically addressed. The Secretariat stressed the need for stronger advocacy with other OH&S groups and industry producers to elevate the issue nationally.
- **Global & Local Connections:** International collaboration is inconsistent, and smaller local companies often lack the education and motivation to adopt best practices. The Secretariat reminded the group that safety is not the absence of incidents, but the presence of safeguards and controls. He encouraged a shift in mindset toward proactive safety measures.

**Action 3:** ESC to organize follow up meeting to develop action plan for the Strategy Session outcomes.

### Working Groups

A voting activity was conducted to determine which working group should be prioritized moving forward. The results indicated that **Group 2: Training and Education** received the highest priority. **Group 1: Standards and Guidelines** followed closely behind. The remaining groups—**Group 3: Incident Review and Analysis**, **Group 4: Communication and Awareness**,



and Group 5: Stakeholder Engagement and Partnership—were all voted at an equal priority level, indicating shared interest across these areas.

## 5.0 SME Presentation and Q&A – Rod Transfer Incident Awareness

CoP Member ([presentation included in the DROPS Teams Site](#)).

### Comments/Discussion:

A member noted that single-acting carabiners are still commonly observed during inspections, emphasizing the importance of using proper devices when working at heights. He encouraged the group to review their facilities and equipment to ensure compliance and safety.

One member shared that the topic was also discussed at the last DROPS North America chapter meeting. A major rig company in the U.S. has implemented a load cell system in the rod basket that disengages the clutch when a certain weight is detected—similar to the concept presented. He also noted recent incidents involving rods falling out of transfers and mentioned that PETOL™, a manufacturer of rod transfers, has introduced a spring-style D-ring system that has received positive feedback from rig companies.

The presenter suggested revisiting and updating Energy Safety Canada's past safety alert related to the topic as a refresher. He emphasized that initial awareness tends to fade over time and highlighted the value of incorporating new learnings, particularly around engineering controls that can identify and prevent risks. He proposed reviewing existing alerts and adding recent findings to enhance industry awareness. The Secretariat acknowledged the suggestion and noted that Energy Safety Canada will take it as an **action to review past rod transfer alerts** and collaborate with members in drilling to develop an updated rod transfer alert that reflects the current incident.

**Action 4:** ESC to coordinate the review of past rod transfer alerts and publish an updated version.

The Secretariat asked if the presenter's company had any systems in place—similar to what was presented regarding critical control assurance—to verify that critical controls were functioning effectively. He referenced the presenter's earlier comments on the hierarchy of controls and suggested this might be an opportunity to explore assurance mechanisms. The presenter explained that the company's corrective actions included requiring the vendor to provide proof—via field supervisor observations—that controls were functioning. Additionally, the company's HS advisors were tasked with including these checks in their observation routines to ensure implementation and effectiveness. This approach helps verify that corrective actions are not only completed but also make sense in the field.

The Secretariat shared that Energy Safety Canada is exploring a new concept called HECA (High Energy Control Assessment), which focuses on identifying areas with high-energy hazards and ensuring appropriate controls are in place to protect workers. HECA complements critical control assessments and will likely be launched alongside updated Line of Fire documents in October.



The presenter explained that HECA is a model designed to identify high energy sources in the work environment. Each source is paired with either direct or supporting controls. While similar to critical control assessments, HECA uses slightly different terminology—referring to “direct controls” instead of “critical controls”—with minor definitional differences.

A member noted that the energy wheel has become a key focus within his group of companies, especially in relation to gravity hazards like DROPS. He suggested there may be an opportunity to collaborate or align the energy wheel with Energy Safety Canada’s resources—such as linking it to gravity-related content—to broaden industry influence and awareness.

The Secretariat highlighted the connection between Life Saving Rules, Line of Fire, and the Energy Wheel as key concepts for identifying and preventing high-energy hazards. He emphasized that using the [Energy Wheel](#) during hazard assessments can improve awareness and help eliminate serious incident risks

## 6.0 Roundtable

One member asked about tool tethering challenges, noting consistent incident trends across companies. Another member responded that while some contractors are setting strong examples, others lack proper standards or use inadequate solutions. He shared a field observation of a tool tethered with a badge lanyard, highlighting the need for consistent and effective practices across sites.

A member asked whether reliable securing practices, similar to those used on rigs, are being applied at land-based facilities. Another member confirmed they are being considered, noting that cost and retrofitting older sites are the main challenges, while newer facilities pose fewer issues. Another member added that his team is also evaluating an older facility, with the maintenance and reliability group assessing risks and costs. He mentioned that more frequent inspections may be needed to monitor conditions like vibration and connection integrity, emphasizing the importance of preventing serious incidents despite the cost implications.

## 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**. Calendar invites will be sent out in the coming months.

### Meeting Dates:

- February 5
- April 2
- June 4
- September 3

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

Item	Description	Responsible	Status	Completed	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 a Safety Share are asked to contact ESC.
2024-06	ESC to reach out to Nord-Lock.	ESC		In progress	A member will provide ESC with a contact at Nord-Lock.
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: CoP 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		Open	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.
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	Sept 5, 2025	Complete	The company is involved in training and investigations related to dropped objects during hoisting and rigging operations across various industries.  Sept 2025 Update: ESC met with Crane Masters on Sept 5. He is enthusiastic in attending the CoP meetings and plans to participate fully.
2025-4	Member to present their DROPS journey during a CoP in 2026.	Member	Sept 4, 2025	Complete	Member was able to take tools from the DROPS CoP and build a standard for his company that was at their risk level.
2025-5	Conduct DROPS Workshop for CAPP Atlantic Region.	ESC	June 11, 2025	Complete	ESC presented at CAPP workshop in St. John's in June.
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.



Item	Description	Responsible	Status	Completed	Notes
2025-7	Share slide deck and bowtie shown during Sept 4, 2025, meeting (if approved by company).	ESC		Open	
2025-8	Invite organizations in your network to join DROPS Canadian Chapter.	All members		Ongoing	
2025-9	Organize follow up meeting to develop action plan for the Strategy Session outcomes.	ESC		Open	
2025-10	Review previous ESC Rod Transfer Alerts for any required revisions/updates.	ESC		Open	