



MEETING MINUTES

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Name: DROPS Canadian Chapter
Function: Community of Practice
Type: Ongoing
TOR Version: Version 1.4
Date/Time: February 1, 2024, 9:00 MST

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

The Chair and Secretariat provided an introduction about the DROPS Chapter for the benefit of new members. For anyone visiting as a guest who would like to officially join the Chapter, members were advised to contact the Chapter Secretariat.

2. Safety Moment/Ice Breaker

A chapter member provided a safety moment for the Chapter Members on *DROPS Programs for Service Rigs*.

The presentation focused on how most concerns around dropped objects are often centered on stationary, high rigs and platforms where work is performed, while an area that is not often addressed is unsecured or poorly secured objects on moving vehicles.

Challenges for prevention were discussed, including failure to complete pre-trip inspections. Factors that can contribute include workers not fully understanding the seriousness of potential dangers when inspections are not conducted, as well as inexperience and complacency.

When it comes to ensuring dropped object prevention on moving vehicles, the following questions were posed to the group:

- What safeguards are currently in place?
- Have extra measures been taken to implement secondary safeguards or controls while units are in transport?
- Is it adequate to rely solely on the operator completing pre-trip inspection once loaded and driving to the next location?
- If the above have been addressed, is an accountability system in place other than the pre-trips inspections?
- Are all employees responsible for completing the pre-trip inspections doing so, and thoroughly, before departure?



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After the presentation, the group discussed the topic. A member shared that in their case, they have a lot of workers who do work alone. Because they don't have another set of eyes, they use a 360 program, in addition to the pre-trip inspection, that they expect their employees to adhere to. There's a walk-around process they expect to take place.

Members were reminded that volunteers are welcome to present a safety moment at a future meeting.

3. 2023 Achievements, 2023 Member Survey

The Chair introduced the 2023 Survey issued at the end of the year. The results are meant to determine ways to improve the Chapter meetings for the benefit of members.

The Secretariat took a moment to go over the Terms of Reference followed by a review of activities completed in 2023:

- The Activity Package that complements the DROPS Procedure
- 4 meetings held with 3 guest speakers
- Membership growth
- 2023 Survey conducted
- DROPS Online eLearn Module reviewed and approved
- DROPS workshop held at the 2023 Energy Safety Conference

The Secretariate also demonstrated how to navigate to the DROPS Online eLearning course.

1. Register at [DROPS Academy](#). Be aware that there are two versions in English—a UK version and a US version.
2. Enroll for the course, titled [DROPS Awareness e-Learning](#).
3. Apply the discount code: DROPESEC
4. Print your certificate after course completion.

A member spoke up to recommend the course—he thought the material was very thorough and was happy with the amount of money he saved by applying the Canadian Chapter Members' discount. A second member also mentioned that the CAGC has some resources for helicopter work for moving equipment around, which could also be of use to the group.

The Secretariat provided a quick overview of the 2023 Survey responses and the Action Plan. Members can review these when posted on Teams site.

4. Engagement Time

The questions sent with the meeting Agenda were discussed. The engagement was awesome as captured below:

- What should “good” look like (an ideal state)



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- A member shared that “good” looks like properly identifying the potential drops hazards in the planning phase. This is to prevent workers from having to react to hazards on the fly.
- Another member did some work recently using a bowtie analysis. The left side of the bowtie would be prevention, and the right side of the bowtie would be mitigation. Through that process, they were able to develop some critical controls for operations and develop critical control assurances.
- What are barriers right now against DROPS success (remote/ personal/ organizational/ 3rd party)?
 - A member said even if there is a good program and gaps are identified, it’s important to ensure that work doesn’t drift from those practices. He highlighted a need to be vigilant against complacency and ensure there is accountability. Because of time constraints and other factors, sometimes DROPS gets pushed to the side.
 - A member said that a dropped object needs to have a clear definition. If not, everyone is on the same page of what counts as a dropped object, there can be underreporting. He provided an example that it was discovered workers were not reporting objects that had fallen if they had fallen when there was no one around. When a definition was put in place, they saw better reporting. The member recommended everyone’s workforce understands what is considered a dropped object and when a report should be made.
 - A member said that one of the problems they have encountered at their company is sending equipment back to the manufacturers. Often when that piece of equipment is sent back to them, the manufacturers have not taken the same measures to ensure there is no risk of dropped objects. There is an elevated risk of “small” parts as dropped object hazards when they receive the equipment.
 - A member works at a location with excellent reporting levels. However, there were 18 objects dropped and the controls seem to be administrative. With their new implementation with HOP, they accept that humans are well intentioned but still make mistakes. They would like to know what others are doing outside of administrative controls and is looking for solutions and feedback from the group.
 - A member shared that it’s important to share information between the group. He thinks that using ESC and DROPS Online is a great conduit for us to facilitate conversation and sharing of information.



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- A member wanted to expand on equipment coming back from the manufacturers. He proposed including manufacturing companies into the DROPS Chapter, as they could benefit from the learnings as much as anyone.
 - There was quite a bit of discussion about this, as many members think that this is a good idea. The Secretariat said that if any members know some contacts at manufacturing companies, please provide their contact information to him.
- A member discussed Prime Contractors, and some of the barriers they face are where the lines of responsibility are drawn. How much is it their responsibility to ensure the vendors have DROPS programs? Is it the Prime's responsibility to provide a DROPS program for the vendors? What does legislation say? They feel caught in the middle of whether they should expect all vendors to have their own DROPS program, or if they should be providing a DROPS program to the vendors. At the end of the day, their primary concern is ensuring that all workers are safe from dropped objects, regardless of whether they are vendor employees or Prime employees.
- A member said that there might be some benefit to and approaching manufacturers as a group with dropped object concerns. Most companies are willing to make changes when requested, but that doesn't seem to be widely available to the industry. With a larger group, such as the Chapter, voicing concerns, there could be opportunity to effect a change.
 - What are possible solutions to the identified barriers?
 - Due to time constraints, this question was not discussed.

5. New Teams Collaboration Area

- The Secretariat then shared with the members the use of a Teams Site for sharing materials. They gave a brief overview of how it works and informed the group that members would be added to the site and will receive a notification when they have been.

6. SME Presentation and Q&A

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- A subject matter expert from a dropped object prevention equipment manufacturer delivered a presentation on DROPS best practices, particularly around tethering, and how research informs product development. A copy of the materials he spoke about is



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available on the Teams Site under [Meeting Content and Materials](#). (Link will only work for members granted access to Teams Site.)

There was a Q&A period at the end of the presentation.

- There was a question about what kind of carabiners were used. Another question was asked about what material the anchor points were made of, and whether they can withstand cold weather conditions. According to the presenter, they are made of a poly which is tested to the ANSI standard to a test temperature of -40°C .
- A question was also asked about the gloves—they manufacture gloves that can act as anchor points for tools. The question was if they had different types of gloves for different type of work. The presenter replied that they have four types of gloves, two that are designed for impact and two for non-impact. They are currently developing a type of heavy-duty glove with a fingertip protector built in.

7. Next Meeting Dates: 2024

April 4, 2024

June 6, 2024

September 5, 2024

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:48 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		In progress	
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	