Meeting Minutes

Name:	DROPS Canadian Chapter	**TOR:**	**Version 1.6**
Function:	Community of Practice	Date/Time:	June 4, 2026 9:00 am – 11:00 am (MT)
Type:	Standing		

Meeting Minutes

1.0 Welcome by the Chair

The chair welcomed attendees and reviewed the agenda.

Two regulatory representatives introduced themselves and shared updates on current priorities and areas of focus. This includes prevention initiatives, engagement with vulnerable worker groups, and increasing attention on serious incidents and fatalities.

Discussion included interest in better understanding dropped object prevention and exploring how DROPS-related practices can be applied more broadly across industries beyond energy, construction, and industrial sectors.

Ongoing work within Saskatchewan to explore improved tracking of dropped object and line-of-fire incidents, as well as a current regulatory review, presenting an opportunity to strengthen legislation in this area.

Updates were also provided on ongoing collaboration between the DROPS group and provincial regulators. This includes work with Alberta OHS, Saskatchewan OHS, and engagement with WorkSafe BC, with a longer-term goal of expanding efforts nationally.

Key areas of collaboration include improving regulatory guidance, increasing consistency across jurisdictions, and identifying opportunities to better integrate dropped object prevention into existing frameworks.

2.0 Safety Share

A safety share was presented involving a dropped object incident on a double service rig during rig-up operations.

A spring assembly (approximately 5 lbs) associated with a telescopic mast stabilization system failed at the eyelet connection, releasing from its J-hook and falling from approximately 50 feet. No injuries occurred; however, the event had potential for serious or fatal injury given worker proximity at the ground level.

The assembly was installed per original equipment manufacturer (OEM) design and did not include secondary retention, and no pre-existing defects were identified.

Discussion focused on mitigation options, including securing the J-hook or using alternative connections (e.g., hammer locks) to prevent disengagement while maintaining functionality. Safety cable options were considered but raised concerns regarding operational impact.

It was noted this type of failure had not been widely observed, highlighting the need to assess even long-standing designs from a dropped object perspective.

Key takeaways included the importance of proactive dropped object assessments, engaging OEMs when considering design changes, and evaluating systems at height for potential failure points.

3.0 Review of Open Action Items

An update was provided on current action items, including challenges with accessing the existing Teams/SharePoint site. It was noted that some organizations are unable to access shared materials, and options are being explored to improve access and information sharing moving forward.

The role of the **Strategy Group** was reinforced, with regular meetings established to help guide priorities, coordinate resources, and support progress on key topics for the Community of Practice.

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

4.0 ESC Updates

The 2026 ESC Conference in Banff was well attended, with over 1,000 participants, and received positive feedback on both content and speakers. Planning for the 2027 conference is underway.

A new ESC website has been launched, including a DROPS landing page. Members were encouraged to provide feedback to improve usability, educational content, and overall accessibility of resources.

Work is ongoing to review provincial legislation related to dropped object prevention across Canada. Initial findings indicate that while provisions exist in most jurisdictions, they are generally broad in nature. A summary report outlining similarities and gaps is being developed to support future collaboration with regulators and industry.

Engagement with provincial OHS regulators continues, supported by this work, with opportunities to strengthen awareness, education, and potential alignment as jurisdictions undertake regulatory reviews.

Updates were provided on several additional initiatives:

- Development of a SIMOPS industry guide, with workshops scheduled and draft guidance to be shared upon completion
- Release of new resources supporting young, new, and inexperienced workers, including videos to assist onboarding and supervision

- Ongoing work on "auditing differently," in collaboration with Alberta and Saskatchewan, with pilot results to be shared with industry
- Updates to the Line of Fire program, including revised materials and alignment with IOGP categories

It was also noted that work continues on aligning industry approaches to serious incident and fatality (SIF) definitions, including comparison of IOGP and Edison Electric models.

The DROPS strategy group continues to advance priorities, including regulatory engagement, cross-border collaboration with the U.S. DROPS chapter, and addressing information-sharing challenges across organizations.

Members were encouraged to access ESC resources, provide feedback, and contribute to ongoing initiatives. Producers were also invited to share their approaches to dropped object prevention to support greater consistency across industry.

5.0 ISEA 121 Dropped Objects Prevention Solutions

A presentation was provided on the ANSI/ISEA 121 standard for dropped object prevention, including regulatory context, system design, and equipment performance requirements.

The standard focuses on the systems and equipment used to prevent dropped objects, rather than the tools themselves. It establishes minimum design, performance, and labeling requirements for equipment used to secure tools and materials when working at height.

An overview of conformity assessment was provided, outlining three levels of assurance: manufacturer self-declaration, qualified laboratory testing, and third-party certification. These levels provide increasing confidence that products meet the standard.

The standard defines four key components that make up a dropped object prevention system:

- Anchor attachments
- Tool attachments
- Tool tethers
- Containers

It was emphasized that these components must be used as a complete system, and that the overall system capacity is determined by the lowest-rated component, reinforcing the importance of understanding equipment ratings and compatibility.

Performance requirements were also reviewed, including:

- Dynamic testing to simulate dropped events
- Static testing to confirm load capacity
- Environmental conditioning to validate performance under workplace conditions

Additional elements of the standard include requirements for product labeling, ensuring users can identify ratings, traceability, and intended use, and inspection practices, with all components required to be checked prior to use.

Common causes of dropped object incidents were highlighted, including use of improper or incompatible components, exceeding rated capacities, damaged equipment remaining in service, and incorrect anchor point selection.

The presentation reinforced that effective dropped object prevention relies on proper system selection, inspection, and training, and that the system is only as strong as its weakest component.

Member Discussion:

A question was raised regarding the use of chin straps for hard hats, noting increased adoption by general contractors in some sectors. It was shared that updates to the industrial head protection standard (Z89.1) are currently underway, which may further address this area.

A separate question focused on how organizations can verify the level of conformity assessment (self-declaration, laboratory testing, or third-party certification) for dropped object prevention equipment.

It was noted that this information is not typically displayed on the product label and must be obtained through the manufacturer's declaration of conformity or supporting documentation. Members noted that clearer labeling would improve usability and allow for quicker verification in the field.

6.0 2026 Meeting Dates and Closing Remarks

The next meeting is scheduled for **September 3 (9:00-11:00 a.m., virtual)**.

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 our future meetings.

An upcoming presentation is being planned on energy-based safety and the high-energy calculator, with efforts underway to confirm a speaker.

7.0 Adjournment

Action Item Table

Item	Description	Responsible	Completed	Status	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.
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		On hold	June 2026 Update: On hold pending further alignment with ongoing work.
2025-8	Invite organizations in your network to join DROPS Canadian Chapter.	All members		Ongoing	
2025-10	Review previous ESC Rod Transfer Alerts for any required revisions/updates.	ESC		Ongoing	June 2026 Update: Progress is ongoing on reviewing historical ESC rod transfer alerts, with additional input being sought, including engagement with the U.S. DROPS chapter.
2026-1	Members invited to join Strategy Group.	ESC/ Members		Complete	Members expressed interest during Apr 2 meeting. Other interested members are to contact ESC or the chair/vice-chair.
2026-2	Members needed for WG (Tool Tethering). DROPS Working Groups - Members and Objectives.xlsx	ESC/ Members		Open	CoP members interested, please contact ESC, chair or vice-chair. Members who have previously indicated interest in the Training, Education and Communications are to confirm continued interest.