



Meeting Minutes

Name: DROPS Canadian Chapter
Function: Community of Practice
Type: Standing

TOR:
Date/Time:

Version 1.6
September 3, 2026
9:00 am - 11:00 am (MT)

Meeting Minutes

1.0 Welcome by the Chair

The chair welcomed attendees and reviewed the agenda.

2.0 Safety Share

Due to time constraints, the safety share was postponed until next meeting.

3.0 Review of Open Action Items

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

4.0 AB OHS Update on DROPS Data

An provide an update at a future meeting.

5.0 ESC Updates and DROPS Strategy Group Highlights

ESC Update

Focus continues on Serious Injury and Fatality (SIF) prevention, with industry leadership discussions emphasizing the importance of effective critical controls and learning from Potentially Serious Incidents (PSIs). Efforts are underway to improve industry-wide sharing of safety information and explore the use of aggregated incident data and AI-enabled analytics to identify trends and prevention opportunities.

Members were encouraged to review resources available through ESC's SIF Prevention landing page, including research, industry comparisons, and prevention-focused materials. Priority Learning Moments (formerly Safety Alerts) continue to support rapid industry learning, with shared incidents now categorized using the Energy Wheel framework to help identify recurring risk themes and learning opportunities.

A review of provincial and territorial occupational health and safety requirements related to dropped objects confirmed that dropped objects are widely recognized as a significant workplace hazard across Canada. Common regulatory themes include hazard identification, engineering controls, lifting operations, storage practices, and shared workplace responsibilities. A summary report and supporting jurisdictional reference spreadsheet are being finalized and will be made available as industry resources.



Findings from the SIMOP project workshops and industry survey identified the need for a clearer definition of SIMOP, improved management of concurrent work activities, stronger ownership and field verification processes, enhanced communication between work groups, and clearly defined pause-and-reassess triggers. Development of a risk-based guidance document is underway, with work currently focused on developing the table of contents and supporting content.

Additional updates included promotion of the upcoming 2026 PSI Report webinar scheduled for September 30 and continued work related to dropped object prevention and industry learning initiatives.

DROPS Strategy Group Highlights

The Strategy Group continues to review Community of Practice priorities to ensure member engagement and value. Discussion topics included safety alerts and incident sharing, regulatory engagement, collaboration opportunities, resource accessibility, vendor neutrality, microlearning development, working group activities, and participation in the 2027 Banff Safety Conference.

Regulatory engagement efforts are ongoing across multiple jurisdictions. Saskatchewan OHS is currently conducting a review of provincial occupational health and safety requirements, and the group has been engaged to identify opportunities for participation. Discussions with British Columbia remain ongoing, while collaboration with Alberta OHS continues. International engagement is also expanding, with participation from U.S. DROPS representatives providing opportunities to exchange information and learn from practices in other jurisdictions.

Work is underway to improve access to DROPS-related resources. Due to limitations within Teams, options are being explored to make selected resources available through the ESC website. Consideration is also being given to developing a directory of dropped object prevention tools and equipment to help members identify available solutions while maintaining vendor neutrality.

Plans are progressing to develop DROPS-focused microlearning resources, with the goal of releasing short learning materials before year-end.

An update was provided on planning for the 2027 Banff Safety Conference. The Community of Practice intends to host a booth focused on dropped object prevention, showcasing prevention efforts, tools, equipment, and the role of DROPS prevention in supporting Serious Injury and Fatality (SIF) prevention strategies.

The Strategy Group will continue to meet between Community of Practice sessions to advance identified action items and support ongoing initiatives.

6.0 Energy-Based Safety Presentation

An overview was provided of Energy-Based Safety (EBS), a research-based approach focused on reducing Serious Injuries and Fatalities (SIFs). CSRA's work is driven by



industry-identified challenges and supported by collaborative research involving construction, energy, infrastructure, and other sectors.

The presentation highlighted that while industry has achieved significant reductions in minor injury rates, similar improvements have not been seen in serious injuries and fatalities. Research indicates that the hazards causing minor injuries are often different from those that result in life-altering or fatal outcomes, requiring a targeted approach to SIF prevention.

CSRA defines serious injuries and fatalities as events that are life-ending, life-threatening, or life-altering. A key principle of EBS is that energy causes harm, with injuries occurring when hazardous energy is transferred to the body without effective controls. Research on hazard identification found that workers and safety professionals often fail to identify a significant number of hazards during planning activities, regardless of experience level.

To improve hazard recognition, CSRA developed the Energy Wheel, a tool that helps identify various energy sources and supports more comprehensive hazard assessments. Research demonstrated that use of the Energy Wheel increased hazard identification rates, while reinforcing the need for ongoing monitoring as work conditions change.

The presentation also reviewed research examining the relationship between energy exposure and injury severity. Findings showed that higher levels of energy are more likely to result in serious injury outcomes, leading to the development of energy thresholds, hazard icons, and calculation tools that help assess SIF potential. These concepts were noted as directly applicable to dropped object prevention, where gravity is the primary energy source and factors such as object mass and drop height influence the severity of potential outcomes.

A significant focus was placed on the role of controls in preventing SIF events. EBS promotes the use of direct controls, which are designed to eliminate or mitigate high-energy hazards and remain effective even when human errors occur. Examples include fall arrest systems and lockout/tagout processes. Where direct controls are not feasible, EBS recommends combining alternative controls, such as physical barriers, dedicated monitoring, and visual reminders, to provide multiple layers of protection.

The presentation also emphasized that people remain a critical component of any safety system. Human error is considered normal and unavoidable; therefore, systems and controls should be designed to anticipate mistakes and remain effective when errors occur. Factors such as fatigue, time pressure, changing work conditions, and other workplace influences should also be considered when assessing risk and designing controls.

The presentation concluded with a discussion on integrating Energy-Based Safety concepts into existing safety management systems, including planning processes, pre-job hazard assessments, leadership observations, management of change, and performance measurement. EBS was presented as a complementary framework intended to strengthen existing safety programs and improve the ability to identify, assess, and control hazards with serious injury and fatality potential.



Questions and Discussions

Discussion focused on the application of Energy-Based Safety concepts to hazards such as hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) releases and other chemical exposure scenarios. It was noted that additional guidance, calculators, and technical support resources are available through CSRA to assist with assessing energy sources and Serious Injury and Fatality (SIF) potential. Special or complex scenarios may require additional engineering analysis beyond the standard energy thresholds and reference tools.

Questions were also raised regarding the application of energy thresholds to dropped object hazards. Clarification was provided that the 1,500-joule threshold represents the most likely point at which a serious injury or fatality outcome may occur based on analysis of historical incident data. The threshold was developed through statistical evaluation of serious injury and fatality events and is intended as a practical benchmark rather than an absolute predictor of injury outcome. Additional factors such as object geometry, impacted surface area, and other exposure characteristics can influence the severity of an incident and may require more detailed assessment.

Members discussed differences between the CSRA energy calculator and the DROPS Online calculator. Differences in threshold values were noted, and an opportunity was identified to engage with DROPS Online to better understand the methodologies and assumptions used by each tool and explore areas of alignment.

Additional information was provided on CSRA's ongoing industry engagement activities, including free Community of Practice sessions held every second month and an annual Safety Summit. These forums provide opportunities to review research findings, share implementation experiences, and discuss lessons learned from organizations applying Energy-Based Safety principles in the field. Upcoming sessions will include discussion on safety clutter reduction and case study outcomes related to simplifying and improving safety programs.

Participants expressed appreciation for the presentation and noted the strong alignment between CSRA's Energy-Based Safety research and current industry efforts focused on Serious Injury and Fatality (SIF) prevention.

7.0 2027 Meeting Dates

Next meetings are scheduled for (9:00-11:00 a.m. Mountain Time, virtual) invites will be sent in near future:

- February 4, 2027
- April 1, 2027
- June 3, 2027
- September 2, 2027

8.0 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		Closed-2026-3	Members are encouraged to contact Abbey 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		Closed 2026-3	Members interested in volunteering for a Safety Share are asked to contact Abbey.
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		Closed 2026-3	
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		In progress	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. Sept Update: The WG met and discussed next steps. If interested in joining, members can reach out to Chairs or ESC.
2026-3	Share manufacturing vendor contacts, recruit safety share volunteers, and invite network organizations to future meetings.	All members		Ongoing	Combined 2024-02, 2024-03 and 2025-08 action items.