

Introduction Discussion

Review all accidents and “near misses” in the past week.

Purpose

The purpose of this discussion is to identify and clarify the dangers of utility knives when not handled properly. There have been many incidents of people cutting their arms, legs, hands, and even cutting their face and eyes.

Guidelines

A utility knife has become a common tool because the art of sharpening a regular knife blade has become a lost skill for most people. A utility knife blade is easily removed and a new sharp blade inserted. The problem with the utility blade is the flexibility of the blade and it easily slides off material.

The following work methods or guidelines shall be discussed and followed when using a knife of any kind.

1. Always check the knife BEFORE using it.

- a) Be familiar with the functions of the knife so you can spot any potential malfunctions; broken tips and twisted or dull blades are more dangerous to the user, because more pressure is needed to cut the item properly.
- b) New sharp blades are recommended for all cutting actions.
- c) Use only a locking retractable blade – do not use flexible pocket knives unless they lock.



2. Always wear your Personal Protective Equipment.

- a) When using Utility knives, PPE should include but may not be limited to safety glasses, gloves, and a hard hat at a minimum.
- b) If you have a knife in your hand you shall be wearing gloves.

**3. Always cut away from yourself.**

- a) Use the tool for its intended purpose; never use a knife as a screwdriver or some type of pry bar (stripping jacket off transmission line).
- b) Whenever possible use both hands to control the knife. One hand is the primary holder, while the 2nd hand acts as a guide for better control and precision.
- c) Make small short, precise cuts, the shorter the cut the more control you have over the knife. By cutting away from your body at all times, you eliminate any possibility of cutting or puncturing your arms, legs, hands face etc.

**General Discussion**

Discuss scenarios in your work environment where a knife could create a hazard and serious accident.

Note

When working with new workers, ask them what their experience with a knife is; everyone presumes a person knows how to use a knife. If you have a knife in your hand you must wear gloves. The hand holding the object is usually the hand that gets cut.

Site Name

Date

Weekly Safety Topic “Utility Knives” Quiz

1. Always ensure your knife is operating properly BEFORE each use.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. When using a Utility Knife, it is cool to cut towards yourself, use it as a pry bar or screw driver as long as the blade doesn't break.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. When using a knife always ensure what direction with the movement?
 - a. Towards the body
 - b. Away from the body
4. Never work with a dull blade.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Name Printed	Signature / Initials

Name Printed	Signature / Initials

Supervisor Printed

Supervisor Signature