

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Always wear CSA approved footwear with a steel toe to protect feet from falling material.

Use gloves when protection of hands from sharp items is required.



However, gloves should not be worn if a hazard exists, such as conveyor, which could pull your hand in to a machine and cause severe injury.

You should inspect your PPE daily to ensure it is in good condition in order to provide the protection required

SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Adhere to all safety caution signs and follow safe work procedures at all times.



SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT



KNIFE HAZARDS & SAFETY

Facts:

- *Knives can be a useful tool in our work place*
- *When the right knife is chosen, it can be very effective*
- *In the hands of a trained worker a knife can be used safely*



However:

- *Knives are often used as “all purpose” tools and result in injuries*
- *Workers will use a general purpose “utility knife” when a specialized tool is available*
- *Improper use of knives has been the cause of many injuries*

Common Causes of Knife Injuries

- Injury to the body part in the line of fire (usually the hand holding the object being cut)
- Handling the knife before or after the cut has been made (picking up an unguarded knife, passing the knife to another worker)
- Object being cut is not secure or is on an unstable surface (the object shifts or moves allowing the blade to slip)
- Dull blade (excessive force required to compensate for the dull cutting edge)
- Inadequate protective equipment (lack of a cut resistant glove for the holding hand)
- Wrong tool (a knife was not the tool for the task)

Line of Fire

- **Visualize the path the blade will take before beginning the cut**



Preventative Measures

- ➔ • Do not cut toward yourself (assess where the blade will go if it comes off or goes through the material being cut)
- ➔ • Open blade knives must be stored in sheaths (utility knives must be stored with the blade retracted)
- ➔ • Place the object being cut on a stable surface (secure the object with a protected hand or holding device i.e. edge)
- ➔ • Keep blades sharp (replace or sharpen blades when they become dull)
- ➔ • Use a cut resistant glove on the holding hand (ideally, use a mechanical device to hold the object)
- ➔ • Choose the right cutting tool (a knife utility knife should not be the first choice)

Never cut towards your body, direction of knife should travel away from yourself. Using a knife improperly can cause injury.

Keep the body out of the line of fire

Ensure that no body parts (or sensitive equipment) will be in that path if the knife slips or comes off the surface.

Procedure for safe use of utility knives:

- Do you have the correct tool for the job?



- Place the product or material to be cut on a flat, stable surface.
- Determine the thickness of the material to be cut. Adjust blade to correct depth.
- Place hand on the material (box), away from the cutting path. Firmly hold the utility knife in other hand.
- Begin cutting holding the handle of the knife firmly and angled slightly upward.
- Always pull/cut in the direction away from body, **be careful to ensure that your body does not come in contact with blade.** Make several passes when cutting thicker materials.
- With each cut of the knife, be sure that your body and clothing are not in the path of the knife.
- To prevent slippage, make sure blades are secured properly before use/get assistance.
- PPE – gloves for hand protection and use of safety glasses is recommended when using utility knives. Blades can snap off unexpectedly and can strike your eye and cause injury.
- Always use sharp blades. Dull blades are a safety hazard; excessive force can lead to knife slippage. **NEVER TOUCH BLADE WITH FINGERS.**
- Never leave utility knives unattended, especially with the blade exposed. It is preferable to use a safety knife with self-retracting or shielded blade.
- Never use your thumb to stop the blade from cutting
- If handing knife to another Associate ensure blade is retracted and / or with handle is pointed out.