



Knife Injury Prevention

Choosing and Using the Right Cutting Tool





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 several injuries*



Some Fundamentals:

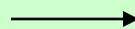
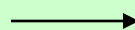
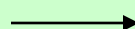
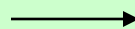
**If a cutting device is needed as a work tool,
it must be:**

- 1. Appropriate for the job**
- 2. Kept in good condition (i.e. blade sharp,
handle intact)**
- 3. Stored properly with other work tools**
- 4. Not used for purposes it was not
intended for**



Causes of knife injuries

- **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)
- **Unstable object being cut** (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)



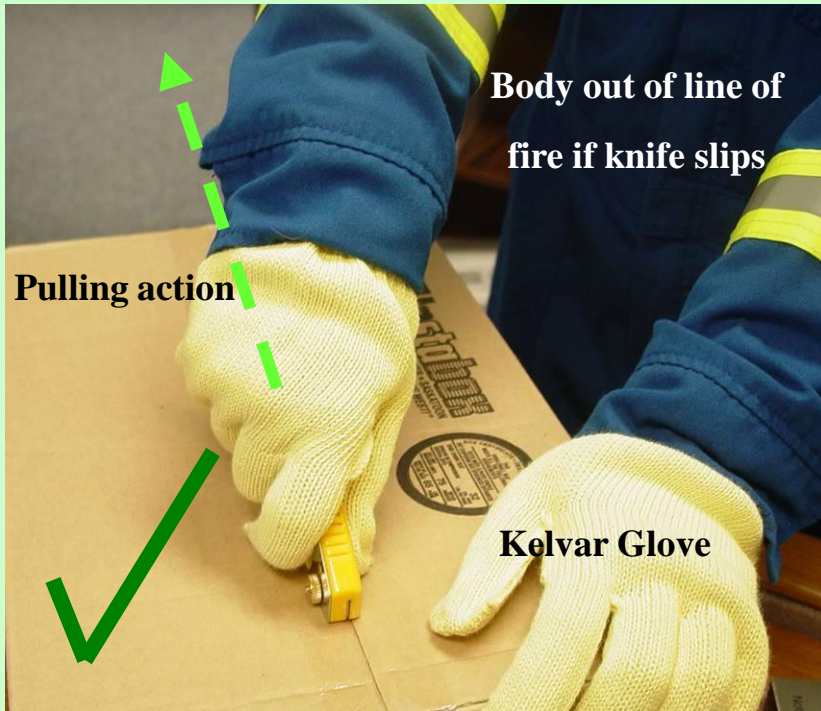
Preventative Measures

- **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 Kevlar 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)



Line of Fire

- *Visualize the path the blade will take before beginning the cut*
- *Ensure that no body parts (or sensitive equipment) will be in that path if the knife slips or comes off the surface.*





Choose the Right Tool:

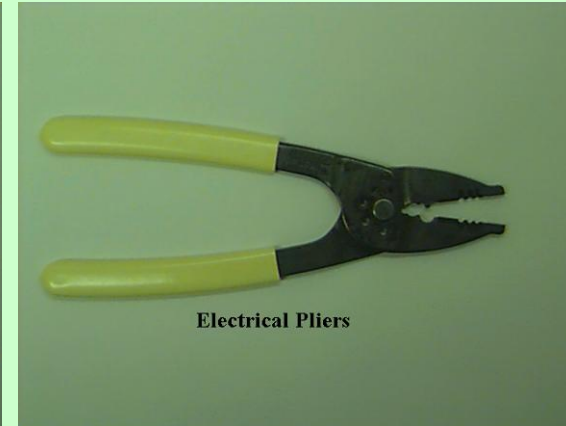
- *A utility knife should not be the first choice*
- *Use a tool that is designed specifically for the task and the material*



9" All Purpose Utility Cutters



PVC Cutters / Ratchet Type



Electrical Pliers



Side Cutters



Multi - Snip



Pipe Cutters

Wire Cutter and Stripper



Sheet Metal Cutters



When a Knife is required, Choose the Right One:



Box Cutter



Lineman's Stripping Knife



Plastic and Film Cutter

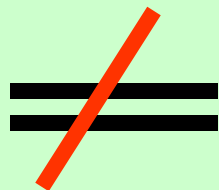


Tape Cutter





Knife



Chisel

Punch

Awl

Scraper

Screwdriver



Protect Your Hand:

- *Use a cut resistant glove on the holding hand*
- *Use a device other than your hand to hold the object being cut*



Cut Resistant Kevlar



Kevlar on holding hand



Using a Cutting Guide



Bagel holder



Prevent Cuts with Knives

- **Direct the cut away from your body**
- **Store knives with the blades protected or retracted**
- **Secure the object being cut on a stable surface**
- **Keep blades sharp**
- **Protect the holding hand with a Kevlar glove or guide**
- **Choose the right cutting tool**

