

Utility Knife Safety



Toolbox Talk #43

What is Utility Knife Safety?

Shop members may use a variety of knives or blades during the course of their work day depending on their trade – including utility knives, multi-tools, or small folding knives. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, lacerations account for over 60% of all hand injuries in the workplace. Below are some tips to help you get sharp on knife safety!

How to avoid an injury

- Cut away from your body (and other people's bodies too, if they're close)
 - Keep things out of the cutting path that you don't want cut
- Make sure the blade is sharp
 - Dull blades require more pressure to cut and this can cause them to slip
 - Dispose of dull blades in a puncture-resistant container
- Use a knife with a shielded blade surface or rounded tip if the application allows
- Make sure removable blades are installed correctly
- Make sure folding blades are fully extended and locked before cutting
- Make sure that the blade is fully retracted before storing it
- Don't use knife blades to pry loose objects
 - This may strain the blade in ways it is not intended for leading to it snapping
- Wear PPE
 - Gloves can prevent many injuries (Toolbox Talk #22)
 - Safety glasses may prevent eye injuries from a snapped blade
- Hand knives to coworkers handle-first



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Information Retrieved from <http://safetytoolboxtopics.com/Small-Tools/utility-knife-safety.html>

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