



Imperial Oil

Knives and Cutting Tools Safety



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:

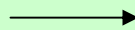
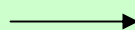
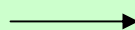
If a cutting device is needed as a work tool,
it must be:

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.*



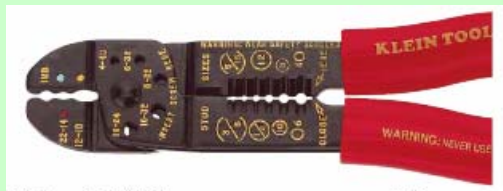


Choose the Right Tool:

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



Wire Cutter and Stripper



Sheet Metal Cutters



When a Knife is required, Choose the Right One:



Box Cutter



Lineman's Stripping Knife



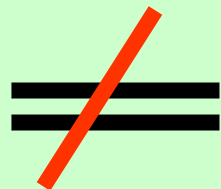
Plastic and Film Cutter



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**