

## 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.