



Dobson Associates

Human Performance Consultants

Tips on Knife Safety

- Knives are a frequent source of disabling injuries when compared to any other hand tool.
- Principal injury source occurs when user's hand slips from the handle onto the blade.
- The secondary type of injury involves the knife striking the free hand or body.
- Never use a dull knife. Keep all knives sharpened and in good condition.
- Knives are designed for cutting only.
- Carry knives with exposed blades in a sheath or holder.
- Wear sheath over hip and towards the back.
- Never leave a knife with an exposed edge on the floor or on a bench.
- If you drop a knife let it fall. Do not attempt to catch it.

An analysis of occupational accidents in 2006 revealed about 4,000 department store warehouse cutting accidents per year with:

- 60% due to uncontrolled cutter movements
- 30% due to an exposed blade after completion of a cutting job
- 6% due to accidental contact with the blade of an idle cutter
- 2% of all injuries are the regrettable result of wrong handling practices of a box slitter with an automatic blade lock (one that the user's thumb remained on the blade push during the cutting process)
- 1% of all cutting accidents are the result of technical box slitter handicaps
- 1% of all injuries result from the use of cutters with inadequately sized handles tending to blister the inner surface of the hand

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