

SAFETY TALK

Environmental Health and Safety Newsletter

December 2024

Cutting Tool Safety

Each year, millions of workers suffer workplace injuries that could have been prevented. Some of the most common and preventable injuries are cuts and lacerations. Although statistical data differs from study to study, cuts and lacerations often rank as the second or third most frequent workplace injury. According to the National Safety Council, over 40% of hand injuries in 2018 were from cuts and lacerations with over 50,000 of those injuries involving days away from work.

Box knives, scissors, or knives are used to perform various tasks, such as opening boxes, or packages.

When using a cutting tool, following these safety practices will prevent lacerations:

- Handle, use, and store knives and sharp utensils safely.
- Cut in the direction away from the body.
- Keep fingers and thumbs out of the way of the cut.
- Never use a cutting blade as a screwdriver, pry bar, or chisel.
- Have a designated storage area for cutting tools when not in use.
- In kitchen areas, install knife holders on worktables to prevent injuries.
- If a cutting tool is dropped or falling, let it fall. Do not try to catch it.
- When carrying sharp objects, always point downward and away from your body.
- Do not touch blades.
- Avoid placing sharp objects near the edge of countertops.
- Do not place sharp knives in sinks without cleaning or rinsing and placing in a safe holder.
- When using a knife, do not talk to customers or coworkers. If interrupted, stop, and place the cutting tool down on a secure surface.
 Do not cut while distracted.

Date.	
Department:	
Supervisor (please print):	
Supervisor Signature:	
Employee Participants: **Please Print Clearly**	Signature

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Please share the safety talk, for the noted month, with your employees and sign off on this form. All others should read for themselves. Completed forms shall be kept on file by the department.