



# SAFETY BRIEF

## UTILITY KNIFE USE

Don't let the small blade fool you. Utility knives are dangerous and sharp enough to cut to the bone. Keep yourself safe by being aware of how injuries occur and by working safely at all times.

### HOW INJURIES OCCUR

- The blade is drawn towards the body when making cuts
- Body parts or limbs are in the path of the blade
- The object being cut is loose or unstable
- Excessive force is used due to a dull blade
- Workers aren't wearing the correct protective equipment such as cut-resistant gloves and safety glasses
- A utility knife is used when another tool is more appropriate
- The knife is stored improperly

### TIPS FOR PREVENTING INJURIES

1. Place the object you plan to cut on a secure and stable surface
2. Visualize the path the blade will take prior to cutting
3. Always cut away from your body
4. Keep your hand and the rest of your body away from the cutting line
5. Store utility knives with the blade retracted
6. Use protective equipment such as cut-resistant gloves and safety glasses
7. Select the correct type of tool for the job—a utility knife may not be the right choice
8. Keep the blade sharp to avoid unnecessary force
9. Follow the manufacturer's instructions when switching out a blade
10. Dispose of blades in a puncture-resistant container
11. Never pass the knife to a coworker with the blade exposed



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