Utility Knife Safety
Manufacturing

Improper utility knife use can result in minor or severe lacerations requiring surgical repair. Fingers, thumbs and even legs can be injured by utility knives. Please review the following safety tips with your employees.

Tool Box Tips

- Only cut materials appropriate for box knives:
  - Thin cardboard and paper
  - Shrink wrap or thin plastics

- Forcing the knife can allow users to lose control and can lead to a severe laceration.

- Box knife blades get dull after only a few uses. Do not use a box knife with a dull blade.

- Dull blades require more cutting force exerted by the hand, meaning accidents can produce very traumatic injuries.

- Keep spare blades handy and accessible for others.

- Do not dispose of dull blades in trash cans. Dispose of dull blades in a leak-proof container.

- Do not use “too much blade.” Only use enough blade to make the cut.

- Cut away from the body. Keep your hands, fingers and arms out of the way of the cutting path.

- Close knives after use. Do not store knives in the “open” position.

- Only purchase box knives with adjustable blades.

These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.