

KCA TOOL BOX TALK:

Utility Knife Safety

A utility knife is a very common tool used on any job site and, unfortunately, causes US companies to spend more than \$300 million dollars each year on just hand lacerations alone, according to OSHA. Many accidents caused by utility knives occur due to dull blades, cutting towards yourself, storing the knife with blade extended, using too much force/pressure, not wearing PPE, and the knife slipping out of the hand or tossing it to a coworker.



TEAMWORK
IMPROVES SAFETY

Signatures

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____

Utility Knife Safety Tips:

- ✓ Use utility knives with *self-retracting blades* when possible
- ✓ Check to make sure the blade *completely* retracts into the handle after each use and before putting it back into your pocket
- ✓ Wear cut-resistant gloves with non-slip palms/fingers and safety glasses
- ✓ Only use *sharp/unbroken* blades that are the proper size/type and replace defective retraction mechanisms (follow manufacturer's instructions)
- ✓ Let the blade cut without excessive force and make sure you are not trying to cut more than the knife can handle at one time.
- ✓ Do not hand a knife to someone with the blade in the "open position" (pass with handle first if you must give it to someone while blade is exposed)
- ✓ Make sure the blade is locked in place before using
- ✓ Avoid disposable utility knives with breakaway blades as they are not meant for heavy use
- ✓ Use a puncture resistant container or carefully wrap blade up in tape or paper when disposing of dull or broken blades
- ✓ Do not use the blade as a pry bar; it will break and cause injury
- ✓ Do not try to stop a falling knife as you will more likely hurt yourself than the ground

For more information visit OSHA REGULATIONS: 1926.301

www.KeystoneContractors.com

Teamwork Improves Safety!

Keystone Contractors Association Jon@KeystoneContractors.com 717-731-6272