

## Toolbox Talk # 19

# KNIVES & BLADES



Company Name:	
Job Name:	
Date:	

### Key Points

1. **Knives and blades** are essential tools on construction sites but pose significant injury risks if not handled properly.
2. **Workers should always** use the correct blade for each specific task to avoid accidents.
3. **Sharp blades** can easily cause cuts, lacerations, puncture wounds, or more serious injuries if mishandled.
4. **Tools with proper handles** and safety features, such as retractable blades, help minimize injury risks.
5. **Workers should always store** knives and blades safely, ensuring they're not left unattended or within reach of others.
6. **Cutting materials on unstable** or uneven surfaces increases the risk of accidental injury and tool misuse.
7. **Gloves can provide** additional protection but should not compromise dexterity when using knives and blades.
8. **Regular inspection** of knives and blades for wear, rust, or damage helps prevent tool failure and ensures safety during use.

**200,000+** Knife-related injuries occur in the workplace each year

# Top 5 knife related injuries...

1. **Lacerations** - Deep cuts when blades slip during material cutting
2. **Puncture wounds** - Accidental stabs when knives are improperly handled
3. **Tendon/nerve damage** - Severe injuries from excessive force or slippage
4. **Amputation** - Loss of digits from extreme pressure or wrong technique
5. **Eye injuries** - Flying blade fragments when cutting hard materials



1. Am I using the correct blade for the task?
2. Is my knife properly secured or stored when not in use?
3. Are my gloves providing protection without hindering dexterity?
4. Is the blade sharp, intact, and in good condition?

Sharp blades at work,  
Careless moves  
can hurt

## Summary

Knives and blades are essential on construction sites but pose significant risks. Workers should be aware of the importance of using the correct blade, maintaining sharpness, and handling tools safely. Proper storage, gloves, and regular inspections help prevent cuts, punctures, and other serious injuries.



OSHA provides guidelines to ensure safe knife and blade usage on construction sites. Regulations require proper training, tool maintenance, and safety practices to prevent injuries such as cuts and punctures.

### Key Knives & Blades Safety Regulation 29 CFR 1926.300 – Hand and Power Tools

This regulation mandates that knives and blades be properly maintained, stored, and used for intended purposes. Employers must provide adequate training and safety equipment to reduce the risk of injury from improper tool handling and misuse.



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ATTENDEES

Print Name:	Signature:

Additional Comments: