

# STAY SAFE WITH SOCIETY

## KNIFE SAFETY

We frequently need to use knives and other cutting tools in our jobs, as well as at home. We cut boxes open and cut bindings off boxes of paper or from around raw materials. We cut seafood, meat, and poultry. We open containers of all sorts. We cut rope, cloth, and various materials and adapt them to our use. But we don't always do this safely.

Watch someone use a knife and notice how often they risk being injured by cutting towards their body. You might see individuals hold a loaf of bread near their chest and cut towards themselves when slicing off a chunk.

An unwise but common use of box knives is to reach across the box and draw the knife toward you. When the knife is drawn through the cardboard, the force, speed, and direction of the cutting action can bring it in line and into the thigh, hand, or other body parts. This is dangerous. Always cut in a direction away from your body.

A sharp knife is the safest knife. It takes less force to cut through an object with a sharp knife. This gives you greater control of the blade. When heavy force is applied, the blade often cuts deeper than intended — sometimes into your skin. When someone tells you their knife is so dull it wouldn't cut hot butter, don't you wonder why they are still using it?

Hand and arm protection is available for occupations that require the use of knives. Specialty gloves (made of Kevlar and other high-performance yarns, chain mail, Superfabric, etc.) protect hands and arms from cuts and punctures. Smart workers wear this protection consistently.

### Checklist:

- Do you sharpen all knives on a regular basis and as needed?
- Do you use the right knife for the job?
- Do you wear cut-resistant gloves when needed?
- Do you cut away from your body?



**SMART WORKERS  
WEAR PROTECTION  
CONSISTENTLY WHEN  
USING KNIVES AND  
OTHER CUTTING TOOLS.**

A Small Detail  
That Can Make a  
Big Difference.

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