

Sharp and Cutting Tool Safety Stats and Facts

FACTS

1. Sharp forced injuries like stab, cut and chop wounds are caused by:
 - Employees in a hurry, taking short cuts or not following safety procedures.
 - Failure to wear cut-resistant gloves or wearing improper gloves for job.
 - Contact with metal items such as nails, metal stock or burrs.
 - Hand tools with blades (e.g., knives, box cutters, screwdrivers, chisels).
 - Powered machinery with cutting blades, pinch points, chain and sprocket, conveyor belts, rotating parts, motors, presses, lathes.
 - Handling sharp objects glass, sheet metal.
 - Improper tool for the job or tool used improperly.
 - Tools in poor condition.
 - Missing or improperly adjusted guarding.
 - Poor housekeeping, clutter, debris.
 - Poor lighting, reduced visibility.
 - Improper Training.

STATS

- Approximately 30 percent of all workplace injuries involve cuts or lacerations, and about 70 percent of those injuries are to the hands or fingers.
- The National Safety Council (NSC) reports that over 120,000 hand injuries occurred in 2019.
 - 83% of those hand injuries were caused by lacerations, cuts, and punctures.

- 27% of machinery injuries are lacerations.
- 56% of injuries caused by cutting tools are lacerations and cause 5 lost days from work.
- Being struck by a falling object or a cut from a hand knife accounts for over 10% of major injuries reported to HSE in the food and drink industries alone.
- Hand knife injuries typically account for between 25-50% of all lost time accidents in the plastics processing industry (HSE/Plastics Processors H&S Liaison Committee).
- 58% of all workplace accidents involving manual tools were caused by knives.