Fixed Open Blade Knives Stats & Facts



FACTS

- 1. Many accidents involving utility knives occur for the following reasons:
 - o Drawing the knife towards you instead of away from your body.
 - Working with a dull blade. (Dull blades require more pressure, increasing the potential for injury.)
 - Trying to cut more than the knife can handle.
 - o Improperly storing the knife with the blade extended.
 - Failing to wear personal protective equipment.
 - Neglecting to inspect the tool before use.
- 2. There have been cases where workers have suffered injuries from exposed blade tips. This is because the blades did not completely retract into the handle.
- 3. Problems arise when some employees don't have or can't find a utility knife supplied by the company. As a result, they tend to use whatever is handy, such as a pocket knife or other tool with a sharp edge. This can quickly turn hazardous if the tool slips or is used incorrectly.

STATS

- 40% of all injuries attributed to manual workshop tools involve knows with retractable blades.
- In a recent US Department of Labor study, of all injures reported, injuries to fingers and hands accounted for more than 23%, making them the highest in preventable injuries and in terms of lost work days.
- A National Safety Council study reports that the cost of just one disabling hand or finger injury varies from \$540 to \$26,000 per patient. With a serious upward extremity trauma averaging \$730,000 per incident.
- According to a recent Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) study, 70.9% of hand and arm injuries could have been prevented with personal protective equipment (PPE), specifically safety gloves.
- The most common injuries in 2012, according to BLS research was sprains, strains and tears. This includes injuries to the wrist and hand ligament.
- Approximately 8,000 of these injuries required job transfer or restriction in 2012. Healing time for these cases was on average 14 lost working days.
- 110,000 lost-time hand injuries annually
- Hand injuries send more than one million workers to the emergency room each year
- 70 percent of workers who experienced hand injuries were not wearing gloves