



# Knife Safety

## *Safety Division*

**Did you know:** A LCPL was messing around with a personal knife when his left thumb slid across the top of the blade causing a deep cut that required stitches to close.

A SGT was climbing a tree on the beach with a butcher's knife in her mouth. SNM fell out of the tree landing in the sand, the knife fell from her mouth and landed in her right leg just above the knee.

A SGT was at his house cutting a rubber ball when the knife slipped and sliced into his hand.

These are a few examples of how Marines have been injured using knives.

**Lesson Learned:** Knives are necessary tools which have been around since man first started making tools. Although knives have been around longer than any other tool, people still misuse and handle knives incorrectly causing accidents and injuries on a regular basis. Knowing how to properly use and care for knives is essential for their safe handling.

**SAFETY FIRST**

**WORK CAREFULLY  
WITH KNIVES**



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### Guidelines for the safety use of knives:

1. Use a solid surface
2. Do not hold small objects in your hand while cutting
3. *Never use a knife* for any purpose other than cutting.
4. *Retract the blade* of utility knives or close folding knives when not actually making a cut.
5. *Do not store* an exposed blade in a pocket, toolbelt, or anywhere someone might reach into blindly.
6. *Only extend the blade* of box knives as far as needed to cut through the box. Overextending the blade will increase the risk of cutting the box contents, or breaking the blade off.
7. *Use hand and arm protection* if your job requires a lot of fast work with a blade. Cut resistant gloves are available for this purpose.
8. *Use the right knife* for the job (do not use a machete to peel radishes).
9. *Keep your knives oiled* and clean by hand with a soft cloth.
10. *If you drop a knife* do not attempt to catch it; let it come to a complete rest before picking it up.





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### Guidelines for the safety use of knives Cont:

1. *Hold a knife* by the handle only, do not place your thumb or finger on the blade.
2. *Hand knives* to another person handle first, with the cutting edge pointed away from your palm.
3. *Do not startle someone* who is using a knife.
4. *Do not* run your thumb or finger down the blade to test the sharpness.
5. *Store knives* with the blade cutting edge down or covered.
6. *Knives are a tool* which can be dangerous if misused, do not play with knives

**Commanders:** Take a moment to discuss the mishaps, lessons learned and guidelines for the safe use of knives with your Marines. Identifying hazards, assessing risks, and implementing controls will assist in preventing future mishaps.

