



Knife Safety SHARPS Awareness

Safety and Environmental Management System

SEMS 4-27

Knives and sharp edged equipment are used offshore several times daily on multiple operations. This increases the exposure to cuts and lacerations. The first step in preventing this is to accept that there is a danger involved in their use. Once this fact is recognized the next step is:

1. Knowing the correct procedures to use in handling the tools and machinery, and concentrating on the task at hand. This is done by:
 - Being prepared
 - Be alert to the environment in which you are working and the task you are performing
 - Do not wear jewelry or loose fitting clothes that can get caught on tools or machinery
 - Do not use tools or equipment unless you know the proper safe procedures to do so
 - Know the safety features
 - Know what to do in the event of an accident

NOTE: Always wear a cutting glove on the non-cutting hand. Wear a latex glove over the cutting glove. Always have two or three cutting gloves in inventory. After each use, wash and sanitize, and dry. Cutting glove use is required at SONOCO.

2. Using other equipment (meat slicer, grinder, chopper, blender, mixer):
 - Make sure hands and floor beneath feet are dry
 - Always add food before turning equipment on, or turn it off to place the food item in to be sliced, ground up, etc.
 - Always use the equipment only for which it was designed.
 - When cleaning equipment:
 - Turn off machine (Slicer: set to "0")
 - Unplug from power source
 - Remove parts to be cleaned and sanitized
 - Reverse process when re-assembling
 - Run equipment to see if it runs correctly
3. Other hazards:
 - Clean up broken glass immediately, use gloves while picking up glass, not bare hands
 - Discard any food that has had broken glass in any portion of it
 - When using foil or wrap to cover food items, always make sure the PVC container is secure to prevent it from slipping and falling. Beware of cutting edge
 - If the PVC (foil or wrap) container falls, let it fall, do not attempt to catch it
 - When cutting tops off the can, be aware the top and can edge is as sharp as any knife
 - Always push top down into the can or place an unattached top into the can and bend the top of the can together to prevent the top from falling out into the trash and becoming a cutting hazard.
 - Beware of nails, or protruding sharp edges on boxes, crates.