



Near Miss!



Date: January 13, 2021

Activity: Falling Knife Hazard

What Happened:

A Steward was cutting onions at the worktable and, when finished, left the knife on the counter next to the cutting board. Without realizing, he laid a galley towel over the knife and went on to his next task.

His galleyhand, also working in the galley doing salad prep, finished his work and started cleaning both areas. When he reached for the galley towel on the table and pulled it towards himself, the knife slid off the table and onto the floor.

Fortunately, he jumped away and the knife fell harmlessly to the floor; no injury occurred.

Why it Happened:

- Steward didn't follow-through to complete a task
- Knife handling procedures not observed
- Carelessness
- Lack of awareness by the galleyhand

Typical Hazards:

- Lacerations
- Puncture wounds

Corrective Actions:

The Steward and Galleyhand had a toolbox safety meeting immediately after the incident. They agreed that:

- Any time someone used a knife, it would be immediately cleaned by the user and returned to the knife rack.
- They would clean and sanitize their own work workstations when finished their tasks.



- If they stepped away from their station in the middle of a task, they would inform each other to prevent the possibility of injury.