



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 01-05

ALTERNATIVE CUTTING TOOLS

WHAT HAPPENED:

There have been a significant number of knife related injuries occurring to employee's arms, hands, legs and fingers. Many of these incidents have resulted in Recordable Incidents. Recently a Toolpusher stabbed himself in the leg with a knife while attempting to cut material.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

Most of these incidents were caused by improper use of knives or personnel using them not paying attention to body parts as the material was cut.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

The use of alternative cutting tools may provide a safer means of cutting materials. The use of these tools in routine tasks may not only be safer, but more efficient, and provide cleaner cuts. Some cutting tools have replaceable blades to maintain a sharp edge. As per the IADC Accident Prevention Guide, sharp tools should not be carried in the workers pocket. Alternate Cutting tools and other sharp tools should be kept in a case that is suitable to be worn on the belt.

Alternative Cutting Tools can be:

- Tin Snips
- Retracting Utility Knife
- PVC Cutter (Plastic Pipe Cutter)
- Wire Cutters
- 2- ½ Handi-Cut ®
- 3-7/8" Handi-Cut ®



IADC does not endorse purchasing any particular brand of alternative cutting tools, those shown here are only examples of tools that are available.

The Corrective Actions stated in this alert are one company's attempts to address the incident, and do not necessarily reflect the position of IADC or the IADC HSE Committee.

This material is presented for information purposes only. Managers & Supervisors should evaluate this information to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices.
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