

SAFETY ALERT

E&CS Lessons Learned - Best Practices

On October 4, 2017 at Plant Gadsden Ash Pond CCR Project, the team had an incident involving a self-retractable knife. Below is a brief explanation of how the incident occurred.

The team member was wedge welding a seam and when the wedge was about 4 feet from one of the cross seams he noticed that the overlap on the under seam was not cut. Knowing this would prevent the wedge from moving and cause a burn out, he quickly knelt to the right of the seam, lifted the liner up with his right hand, and with his left hand he reached down to cut the overlap. The positioning of his left hand (knuckles down) made removing his thumb from the blade slider difficult, and when the hook blade pulled through the liner, the blade didn't retract and cut his left leg.

Please review the following 3 talking points with your crews:

Going Forward

- Have technicians check 2 to 3 cross seams ahead in the weld to ensure necessary overlaps have been cut and removed BEFORE beginning their weld.

Cut Prevention Plan

- Use proper hand and body position.
- Always cut away from oneself.
- Inspect retractable knife prior to start of shift.
- Use the correct blade as it pertains to the type of material being cut.
- Ensure blade changes are made to maintain a sharp cutting edge (requiring less force).
- When using a knife, ALWAYS use cut-resistant gloves (regardless of job size).

The Stop Program

- The commitment to safe work practices.
- You have the authority and obligation to stop work if any unsafe condition exists or unsafe act occurs.
- The 3 Basic Principles of the Stop Program

o See It – Stop It – Correct It

Culpability Result:

- System-Induced Error or Blameless Error

Oct 12, 2017

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RETRACTABLE KNIVES / NAVAJAS RETRÁCTILES

There's one hand tool that demands your respect over many others in the workplace, a tool that can cut you to the bone in an instant...the utility knife. *Hay una herramienta de mano que exige su respeto en el lugar de trabajo, una herramienta que puede cortar hasta el hueso en un instante ...la navaja retráctil.*

Many workers use utility knives. But one wrong move and these retractable blades can do serious harm. *Muchos trabajadores utilizan navajas de uso general. Pero un movimiento equivocado y estas navajas retráctiles pueden hacer daño serio.*

In fact, nearly 40 percent of all injuries attributed to manual workshop tools in the US involve knives with RETRACTABLE BLADES. *De hecho, casi el 40 por ciento de todas las lesiones atribuidas a herramientas manuales de taller en los Estados Unidos involucran LAS NAVAJAS RETRÁCTILES.*

Many accidents involving utility knives occur for the following reasons:
Muchos accidentes con la navaja de uso general se producen por las siguientes razones

- Drawing the knife towards you instead of away from your body.
Jalar la navaja hacia usted en lugar de alejarse de su cuerpo.
- Working with a dull blade. (Dull blades require more pressure, increasing the potential for injury.)
Trabajar con una navaja no afilada. (Las hojas que no están afiladas requieren más presión, aumentando el potencial de lesiones.)
- Trying to cut more than the knife can handle.
Tratando de cortar más de lo que puede manejar la navaja.
- Failing to wear personal protective equipment.
No usar equipo de protección personal.

NEGLECTING TO INSPECT THE TOOL BEFORE USE. NEGLIGENCIA DE INSPECCIONAR LA HERRAMIENTA ANTES DE USARLA.

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. *Ha habido casos en los que los trabajadores han sufrido lesiones con las puntas de las hojas expuestas. Esto se debe a que las cuchillas no se retraen por completo en el mango.*

That's why it's important for workers to use the proper size blades or replace defective retraction mechanisms. *Por eso es importante que los trabajadores usen el tamaño de hoja adecuado o que reemplacen los mecanismos de retracción defectuosos.*

The following are safety precautions to keep in mind when using self-retracting utility knives:
Las siguientes son precauciones de seguridad para tener en cuenta al usar las navajas retráctiles:

- Wear safety glasses to protect your eyes in case a blade breaks.
Use lentes de seguridad para proteger sus ojos en caso de que se rompa una hoja.
- Always use a sharp blade. They are safer than a dull blade.
Utilice siempre una navaja afilada.

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- Wear cut resistant gloves to protect your hands
Use guantes resistentes al corte para proteger sus manos.
- Ensure the blades are properly positioned in the handle before use.
Asegúrese de que las hojas estén colocadas correctamente en el mango antes de usarlo.
- Keep extremities out of the cutting path.
Mantenga las extremidades fuera de la trayectoria de corte.
- Don't apply too much pressure on the blade.
No aplique demasiada presión sobre la cuchilla.
- Don't use utility knives to pry objects open.
No haga palanca con la navaja para abrir objetos.
- Dispose of dull or broken blades in a puncture-resistant container.
Deseche las cuchillas desgastadas o rotas en un recipiente resistente a la perforación.