

Safety Observation

Knife Injury

Incident Description:

- IP was using a knife to remove a plastic tie wrap holding a hose together.
- IP slipped and cut himself in the arm, requiring initial 2 stitches and later surgery

Investigation Findings:

- Why did IP use knife for this task ?
 - Knife was easily available to IP.
 - IP regularly uses knife for this type of task.
 - IP agreed that a wire cutter was a better / safer choice of tool, but could not easily find one
 - IP was aware of general risk of knife, but didn't recognise specific hazard from slipping on tie
 - IP was unable to recount the steps in the thought process demonstrated poor knowledge of Risk Assessment.
- Why was leadership unaware of IP risk tolerance or poor safety awareness ?
 - Supervisor could not account for when he last had an safety discussion with IP - he had focussed upon task completion rather than safety.

Root Causes:

- Understanding Hazard Recognition.
- Supervision and safety awareness.

Action Items:

- IP to explain in writing what safety means to him and how tools will be used by him in future. Review with Line Manager.
- Site wide time out focus personal safety. Coaching of all shifts around toolbox talks and safety awareness including Stewardship process.
- Assess site standard for knives.

