

SAFETY ALERT



ARTC NSW No. 7

INCORRECT USE OF TOOLS (KNIVES)

Incident 1.

Employee was using a Stanley Knife to cut 50mm PVC conduit, the excessive pressure required to cut the thick PVC conduit caused knife to slip uncontrollably lacerating employees wrist. Medical treatment was required and suitable duties.

Incident 2.

Employee attempted to cut a tie down strap from across the tray of a truck using a pocket knife. The knife slipped and punctured the employees arm, medical treatment was required.

Investigation findings.

Both incidents had the potential to cause much more serious outcomes.

The incorrect tool was used for the task in both incidents compromising safety.

Immediate Action Required.

Communicate this Safety Alert to all Work Groups at the very next Prework Briefing. Briefing to emphasise:

- Do not compromise safety through improvisation.
- Use the correct tool for the task.
- Supervisors to continuously risk assess tasks under their control and ensure that identified hazards are assessed and controls implemented.
- Employees are to immediately report hazards and unsafe acts to their supervisors.