

HAZARD ALERT

Fixed bladed knife injury



Incident

The University has recently had a serious injury involving a fixed bladed knife. This resulted in a person receiving numerous stitches to their hand. The person using the knife was exerting force toward themselves when the blade made contact with the hand holding the object being cut.

Issue

- A fixed bladed knife was used. The Budget Area risk assessment control required a retractable bladed knife be used with gloves, for the task.
- An un-protected knife has a fixed blade which remains exposed at all times.
- The risk assessment control was not applied prior to commencing work.
- The cutting technique used by the person was to cut towards their body.

Recommendations

To reduce the risks of similar incidents occurring it is recommended that:

The hazards and risks associated with any tasks are risk assessed and the correct tools and techniques considered:

- Always follow Area rules and work practices.
- Concentrate on what you're doing and wear gloves when using a knife,
- Keep your body and co-workers away from the path of the knife,
- Budget Areas are advised to substitute all fixed blade knives for safety re-tractable knives as shown below.

