

Marine Safety Flash

A15-29 (15th December)



Laceration to Finger

Incident Overview

On completion of unpacking stores the Caterer was performing the routine task of flattening stores boxes using a paring knife. The knife was in his right hand, as they turned the box over to access the other side the knife passed over the left index finger resulting in a laceration.



Figure 1: Handling of the box



Figure 2: Hand position when cutting

Incident Classification: Medical Treatment Case (MTC), the Injured Party (IP) required Medical Treatment in the form of medical glue and butterfly strips.

Lessons Learned

Complacency Competing a Routine Task. The IP made a snap decision to use the knife available without thinking about the consequences. The IP was complacent as it was considered a routine task and did not assess hazards and failed to control them.

Improper Handling and Hand Positioning When Cutting the Box. The IP held the box in mid-air whilst cutting instead of cutting the box on a stable surface. The IP held the box with his hands in close proximity to the knife.

Improper Knife Used For Task. The IP chose to use a paring knife as the one safety knife in the Galley was in use unpacking other boxes.

Personal Protective Equipment. The IP was not wearing gloves at the time of the incident, cut proof gloves were available onboard.

Required Actions

1. Masters / Safety Officer to discuss incident during Safety Meeting to highlight the risks in routine tasks and forwarding recommendation.
2. Masters / Safety Officer to ensure adequate safety knives are available onboard.
3. Masters / Safety Officer to ensure appropriate gloves are available in the storeroom at all times
4. Masters / Safety Officer to review or create a JHA for unpacking stores. JHA to capture correct handling and correct equipment and PPE for the task.