



# Safety

Week of March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Identify the Hazard  
Evaluate the Hazard  
Control the Hazard  
Evaluate the Control

## Member Safety

### "Safe Knife Handling"

From hunting and fishing to enjoying a good meal, knives are a part of our everyday lives at home, work and in the outdoors. While cutting a steak may not pose the same risk as skinning an animal, it is important to recognize the hazards of using a knife. Always ask yourself "What will happen if I slip or stick through the object you're cutting?"

Let's take a moment and survey yourself on knife handling practices. How do you use a knife? Typically, do you cut towards yourself or away from yourself?

We've all heard the saying "Always cut away from yourself." This is probably the most saving factor in avoiding a cutting injury. Another factor to consider is the condition and selection of the knife or cutting tool you are using.

One might consider using a different type of knife to eliminate the hazard altogether. However, should any knife be the tool of choice, make sure it's sharp. Anyone who has ever struggled to cut with a dull blade knows the benefits of a sharp blade. A sharp knife not only makes the job easier, it also reduces unnecessary strain to hands, arms and shoulders. Remember to guard those sharp edges with a scabbard or sheath while that tool is not in use. Gloves also play a big role in reducing the risk of a cutting injury, but gloves alone without practicing safe cutting technique, just won't "cut it".