

# INCIDENT REPORT

November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – First Aid Incidents – Cuts and Abrasions



INCIDENT  
REPORT

## Introduction

There have been two incidents within a short period of time involving cuts and abrasions to hands and fingers.

### Incident #1



A worker was unboxing different supplies. They needed to cut a plastic tie (tie wrap) and did not have a pair of pliers available. The worker chose to use their multipurpose pocketknife and while cutting, the blade slipped and struck the left thumb.

The blade was sharp and cut the thumb diagonally below the knuckle. The worker used their first-aid training and treated themselves on site with disinfection

and wound closure strips. The cut was deep enough to require stitches, but since it was not life threatening, the worker chose not to go to the hospital.

Once back home, the worker consulted a friend who is a registered nurse to look at the injury. The cut was cleaned, the bandages were replaced with new ones, and the hand was wrapped in gauze.

### Incident #2

An employee of a company working on a construction site suffered a cut on the index finger of the right hand. The cut occurred before the end of the employee's shift, during clean up of the site. The employee was picking up debris that had recently been smashed with a sledgehammer.

The employee was previously wearing safety gloves but removed them when using the sledgehammer as they were too large and unsuitable for the task (welders gloves). The employee did not put the gloves back on when picking up the debris.

A manager was present at the time of the incident and provided first aid to the employee. It was recommended that the employee go to the hospital; the employee received two stitches.

## Human Factor Issues

- The proper tools for the job were not available.
- The employees were not wearing the proper PPE.
- The PPE provided was not suitable for the job.
- The person did not stop work to find a pair of pliers to cut the tie wrap.
- The person was in a hurry to unpack supplies.

## Lessons Learned

- Use the right tool for the task.
- Use pocketknives in a safe manner.
- Wear cut resistant gloves when using knives or when picking up sharp debris.
- Wear appropriately sized gloves for the task.
- Refuse unsafe work if the employer cannot or will not provide appropriate PPE.
- Refer to the safety memo from April 3, 2023, [Selection of Protective Gloves](#) for more information.



Figure 2: Image of protective gloves



Figure 3: Image showing how to properly cut plastic ties, courtesy of iStock.