

TAILGATE SAFETY

**SAFETY
FIRST**

The FGI believes it is important to always put safety first. Our **Tailgate Safety Program** is a safety training resource for construction and other high hazard industries. Print out and conduct training right from your tailgate on the job site, or in a formal meeting at your office.

Safety training for the job site & the office!

Utility Knife Safety - 10/1/2025 - Pat Elliott of Viaflex

There's one hand tool that demands your respect over many others in the workplace, a tool that can cut you to the bone in an instant... **the utility knife.**

Nearly one-third of all injuries attributed to manual workshop tools in the US involve knives with retractable blades.

Accidents involving utility knives occur for the following reasons:

- Drawing the knife towards you instead of away from your body
- Working with a dull blade that requires more pressure, increasing the potential for injury
- Trying to cut more than the knife can handle
- Improperly storing the knife with the blade extended
- Failing to wear personal protective equipment
- Neglecting to inspect the tool before use

Safety precautions to keep in mind when using utility knives:

- Wear safety glasses to protect your eyes in case a blade breaks.
- Always use a sharp blade.
- Wear cut rated gloves to protect your hands.
- Hand a utility knife to a co-worker with the handle first.
- Consider using self-retracting blades.
- Ensure the blades are properly positioned in the handle before use.
- Keep extremities out of the cutting path.
- Don't apply too much pressure on the blade.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions when changing blades.
- Don't use utility knives to pry objects loose.
- Dispose of dull or broken blades in a puncture-resistant container.



Safety tips are presented monthly by FGI members & industry experts

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