



HAZARD ALERT No. 007

Issue Date: 21st October 2008

INJURY FROM STANLEY KNIFE

1. OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this Alert is to highlight the potential risks associated with using equipment, particularly knives, in the workplace.

2. BACKGROUND

Whilst cutting a water bottle with a Stanley knife for a sample with the multi-parameter probe, the knife sliced through the bottle and cut the employee's left wrist. The injury was minor and first aid was applied. No further medical attention was required.

3. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with legislative requirements, *"hazards associated with plant and equipment are required to be identified and actions taken to control risks"*. In addition, employees have the responsibility under OH&S legislation to *"work safely, use and maintain equipment properly and to ensure that their work area is free of hazards"* (*Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulation (NSW)*).

4. PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

In order to prevent similar injuries in the future, OTEK employees are required to:

- Before commencing an activity THINK through the tasks involved. IDENTIFY any hazards that may be associated with your task(s). COMPLETE a JSA. PROCEED with the task(s) and implement preventative measures to CONTROL your identified hazards;
- Eliminate the use of hand knives by having the correct equipment for the task (i.e. appropriate sample containers that do not require modification or cutting);
- Use a safe cutting tool, i.e. scissors;
- If you have to use a Stanley knife wear gloves to protect your hands and wrists; and
- Take your time when completing tasks – don't rush!

The best way to control a hazard is to eliminate it !