



## Insulation Works – Knife Injury

<b>Number</b>	2022-06	<b>Date</b>	11.07.2022
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### Summary:

Whilst undertaking insulation duties on an Energy from Waste Construction Site, an insulator was laying on his back under the diesel storage tank he was insulating. Having cut a length of insulation he put the knife he was using down next to him with the blade resting against his leg. He then rolled onto it as the handle wedged against a concrete plinth causing a stab wound to his right thigh just above the knee. He was treated at the scene before being taken to hospital where the knife was removed from his leg and he received stitches to the wound. He was discharged from the hospital with pain relief the following day. He has subsequently had the stitches removed and returned to his normal work duties.

### Outcomes:

- All works in the area were stopped pending the investigation
- A formal investigation was commenced
- The use of the Stanley Fat Max Insulation Knives has been banned on site
- Alternative safe knives were sourced by the contractor
- Risk Assessment and Method Statement were updated to cover findings of the initial investigation

### Incident Classification: Medical Treatment Case

#### Photo



Type of insulation knife being used when injury occurred



### Root Causes and Contributory Factors

#### Root Cause

- Process
  - Incorrect selection of Insulation knife
- People
  - The IP not sheathing the knife each time it was not in used as documented in the Risk Assessment

#### Contributory factors

- Poor ergonomics caused by the lack of space in the working area.
- The Point of Work Risk Assessment failed to identify the ergonomics issue prior to the work starting and could have been used to emphasize the requirement for the knife to be sheathed at all times when not being used to cut insulation.

### Lesson Learned

- All Stanley Fat Max insulation knives are prohibited on all HZI sites going forwards.
- Only approved “safe knives” for insulation allowed on HZI on sites. These will have one serrated edge, rounded tip and have a sheath / scabbard for storage when not in use.



Every Lesson Learned is an opportunity to avoid recurrences.  
What have you done to avoid similar incident on your project?

