

# SafetyTalk

## Topic: Food Service – Cuts and Lacerations

Proper safety practices should be a part of every food service employees' daily routine. Cuts and lacerations are among the most common injuries experienced by food service personnel – below are tips to help avoid them.

### General Safety Tips

#### Knives

- Store knives in a separate location from other utensils
- Use the proper knife for the job and keep blades sharp — dull knives tend to slip more easily
- Fingers and thumb should be tucked under and away from cutting zone
- Never attempt to catch a falling blade

#### Slicers, Choppers and Grinders

- Only trained and authorized personnel should use and clean these tools
- Tie loose hair and avoid wearing jewelry
- Set guards in place prior to use
- Use a wooden tamper when operating food choppers or grinders
- Always power-off and unplug before cleaning

#### Glassware

- Glassware should not be placed in the same sink used to wash pots/pans
- If a break occurs:
  - Use broom/dustpan or a damp cloth to clean up
  - If broken in sink, drain water before removing glass pieces
  - Do not place glass in trash bags – use a box or can when disposing

#### Additional Tips

- Wear cut-resistant gloves when handling knives and blades
- Hand wash sharp objects
- Retract utility knife blade when not in use
- Remove lids from cans completely and discard
- Carry knives with cutting edge and tip pointed down and angled away from body
- Use trash pusher to push trash down in the cans or bags

### Topics to Discuss

- Common causes of kitchen cuts/lacerations
- Cut/laceration procedures and reporting

### Resources

For more information about this topic, visit:

- United Heartland Resource Library: [UnitedHeartland.com/resource-library](https://www.unitedheartland.com/resource-library)

# SafetyTalk

**Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meeting Organizer:** \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name

Items Discussed:

Problem Areas or Concerns:

Attendees (Names/Signatures):	

Comments: