

# Knife Safety – Recent LTI’s

Issue Date - 20/05/2016

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<b>SHIELD NUMBER(S)</b>	<a href="#">17468</a> & <a href="#">18688</a>	<b>Date of Incident</b>	various
<b>Incident Type</b>	LTI : Loss of control of hand tool	<b>Incident Rating</b>	<b>S2 / P2</b>

### Purpose & Background

The following alert has issued due to 2 serious LTI’s involving NT’s cutting themselves with knives. A number of knife related Minor injuries have also been recorded on SHIELD. The purpose of this alert is to reinforce the potential hazards associated with the use of Knives and stripping cables.

### SHIELD Incident Descriptions

**ID 17468** - (Date of Incident 25/03/2016)

While working on a new customer connection an Apprentice cut the tendon in his thumb with a knife when stripping a cable. The Apprentices thumb was operated on and he is expected to make a full recovery.

**ID 18688** - (Date of Incident 16/05/2016)

NT received a cut to his left thumb. Second NT Cleaned wound and wrapped in bandage. The incident was reported to his supervisor and attended hospital

**Both Incidents are currently under investigation.**

**We wish both NT’s a speed recovery.**

**This Safety Alert is issued for advisory purposes and to promote learning & safety awareness within ESB Networks.**



### **What should I do?**

#### **Managers/ Supervisors**

- Ensure all staff receive a copy of this alert and discuss Knife safety with your staff at your next briefing

#### **Everyone**

- Use the most appropriate knife for the task being undertaken and wear cut resistant gloves for tasks where it is practicable to do so. (Kevlar if required by risk assessment).
- Stay focussed on the task at hand.
- Always direct the cutting movement of the blade away from all parts of the body.
- In cold weather always heat up the insulation with a gas torch before attempting to strip with a knife.
- Always use a sharp blade. Used correctly, it is safer than a blunt blade.
- Always use a stripping tool where possible.
- Always place a knife back into its holder/sheath when not in use.
- Do not apply too much pressure on the blade.
- Do not use knives to pry loose objects

**For further Information Contact** - Seamus O’Loughlin, Technical Development Manager 087 901 3143