

# KNIFE SAFETY

▣ **All knives are always sharp all the time.**

There are many accidents with knives because of complacency, ignorance and lack of knowledge. We use knives day in and day out and should realize what can happen when any of the three things mentioned above turn against us. Sharp knives although used for many task were first designed to cut flesh and do so very well, let this not be forgotten and treat each knife as if it can cause serious damage if not careful with them.

▣ **Never cross your knife at anything you are not willing to destroy.**

This means other people, cherished and valuable items plus other living things including animals. Destroy means it can not be repaired as it was before being cut. It doesn't take but less then a quarter of an inch into the tissue of your hand to render a digit completely useless or a poke to an eye to lose sight.

▣ **Keep your folder closed, your fix blade sheathed until ready to use.**

If the edge is not exposed you have lowered the chance for a injury or damage to an item.

▣ **Always know your target and what is beyond**

Consider items, yourself and other people around the exposed edge of the knife when in use. Are they within reach of your blade if you slip?

▣ **Keep knives stored in a safe manner**

▣ **Keep your eyes** on what you are doing at all times.

▣ The very first "knife" rule I was taught as a child: cut **away** from your body parts.

▣ keep your knife **sharp** — a dull tool is a dangerous one; and focus on the task at hand

▣ Train and perform demonstrations in a SAFE ZONE.

That means **NO LIVE BLADES** on the body, or within reach. Stage them outside of where you will be working.

▣ On folding knives, ensure that lock is safely engaged before cutting

▣ Do not lay your knife down between tasks: re-sheathe fixed blades and close and pocket folding blades.

▣ And if I might add, avoid folding knives with inferior locking mechanisms since they can be the cause of an accident.

▣ By all means if possible cut in the safest direction that you are able.

That being said, sometimes one must cut towards the body.

I think that being very aware and accustomed to the presence of the stored energy is vital regardless of the direction of the cut.

▣ **WATCH WHEN YOU'RE PUTTING IT BACK INTO IT'S SHEATH...**

As cool as it'll look to just nonchalantly slide a blade back into a sheath, WATCH WHAT YOU'RE DOING to make sure you're not turning your hip into it's own sheath.

▣ Don't try to perform a task with the knife it wasn't designed for.