



CASE VI

An employee asked another employee to exchange a trim knife for him at the tool crib. The man placed the knife in the side pocket of his coveralls and started for the crib. On the way, he stopped to remove some stock from a shelf 8 ft (2.4 m) from the floor. He was unable to reach the stock from the floor, so he used the bottom shelf on the rack as a platform to stand on. As he bent his right leg to step up on the shelf, the sharp point of the knife was forced up and penetrated his body approximately one inch. A deep laceration was the only injury.

What could have been done to prevent his injury or similar incidents in the future?

Guide and Background Information for Case VI

If asked, explain that there were no holders or tool bags provided for carrying tools of this type, such as punches, awls, screw drivers, etc. Also, it was common practice for workers to exchange tools for each other.

Following are other important facts that may help:

- The trim knife was not one of the tools used in the injured employee's own work. He did, however, use other similar tools.
- The injured employee started out to obtain stock, but was asked to exchange the trim knife on his way.
- There was a small stepladder nearby that the injured employee could have used.
- There were no rules prohibiting any employee from exchanging tools, even if the attendant at the tool crib knew it was for another person.

Possible Solutions for Case VI

1. Proper belt holders should be provided to carry tools because these employees used sharp-pointed tools frequently.
2. A rule prohibiting employees from exchanging tools for each other could be put in effect.
3. Better training in the handling of tools would help.
4. More emphasis on the hazards of using shelves as a stepladder also would help prevent such incidents.



Summary

Stress the number of incidents resulting from improperly handled tools. Emphasize the importance of a sound training program on the proper use and handling of sharp and pointed tools. Stress also the need for rigid rules for carrying tools of this type.