



## Linesman cuts tendon in thumb with knife

Whilst restoring supplies during a storm a linesman suffered a severe cut to the thumb while removing ABC zip ties. At the end of his shift, following discussion with his Supervisor, he visited hospital, where it was established he had damaged a tendon. The injury required surgery and will require on-going physiotherapy to ensure full use is regained.

The linesman was wearing leather gloves, but these did not offer the protection required. The investigation concluded a knife was not the correct tool for the task, as a pair of side cutters or snips would have been preferable, and he was also distracted by other activities and discussions at the work site.



1. Identify the work tasks, and select appropriate PPE for that task (in this case Kevlar gloves)
2. Ensure that the correct tools are being used for the task, and that they are in good working order
3. When carrying out any task, concentrate at all times, and avoid being distracted by colleagues