

# LDEO LAB SAFETY GRAM

**12/3/2013**—Last week a Lamont researcher suffered a serious cut to the hand while working with some tools trying to remove a handle from a ceramic knife. The cut required emergency medical attention and resulted in the researcher receiving stitches to close the wound. This unfortunate injury occurred as a result of the researcher working on an extremely sharp object (see knife pictured below) while not wearing protective gloves nor was the knife blade/pointed tip protected. Consequently, a serious cut resulted when the researcher's hand struck the exposed knife. The researcher had not taken the CU Shop Safety training course.



## **LESSONS LEARNED:**

Researchers should not work with shop type tools unless they have been properly trained by the shop supervisor and have completed the CU Shop Safety Training course. Importantly, when working with tools or with objects that have sharp edges, protective gloves should be worn. Additionally, a guard should be placed on exposed sharp edges where possible as an added protective measure. It is worth considering that before endeavoring to modify 'off the shelf' items, check with the manufacturer/distributor to ascertain whether you can purchase such items in the form that you desire. In this instance the LDEO Safety Office contacted the distributor of the knife and was informed they could provide these knives without the handles.

If you have any similar procedures being performed which you may want to have the Safety Office evaluate to ascertain safety concerns, please let us know.

LDEO SAFETY OFFICE  
Howie Matza, Manager (x8822)  
Cathy Troutman, Asst. Manager  
(x8860)