

# Sporting Knives and Tools in America: Essential to Daily Life

## Sporting Knives and Tools

Throughout the U.S., people use knives and edged tools daily: In their work, from construction worker to florist; in their normal activities, from opening packages to cutting apples; and in their recreational activities, from camping to fishing and hunting. Knives are used every minute in life-saving situations by EMTs, firefighters, law enforcement and the military. They are an essential tool for work and play in American lives.<sup>1</sup>

## U.S. Sporting Knife & Tool Industry - \$4.844 Billion Economic Impact<sup>2</sup>

- 3,566 direct U.S. Employees at 61 Companies
- 17,830 Ancillary Support Jobs in Other Industries and Services
- \$807.4 Million Gross Revenues at Manufacturer/Importer Level
- \$4.844 Billion Total Economic Impact on U.S. Economy

## Majority of Knives Designed to Open Easily with One Hand<sup>3</sup>

- 80 % of new knife sales are easy to open, folding knives called pocket knives, one-hand opening or assisted opening. These include multi-tools with one or more knife blades.
- The majority of activities using a knife require one hand free for holding something.
- Courts in California, Texas, Illinois and Michigan have expressly ruled that assisted-openers are not illegal switchblades.
- The Federal Switchblade Act of 1958 was amended in 2009 to clarify that these knives which have a bias toward closure are not illegal switchblades in interstate commerce.



## Millions of Americans Use Knives Daily - A Few Examples

- 42.3 Million people went camping in 2011<sup>4</sup>
- 13.7 Million hunters carried knives in 2011<sup>5</sup>
- 25 Million people participated in kayaking, camping or rafting in 2011<sup>4</sup>
- 1.2 Million active law enforcement officers carrying knives<sup>6</sup>
- 1.6 Million EMT's, firefighters, security guards carry valuable tools every hour of the day<sup>6</sup>
- 2.4 Million active and reserve military servicemen/women carry knives
- 33.1 Million people over the age of 16 fished in 2011<sup>5</sup>
- 4.9 Million construction workers rely on knives and multi-tools<sup>7</sup>
- More than 1 Million adult volunteers in local councils throughout the U.S. and its territories help Boy Scouts of America with 2.7 Million youth members to Be Prepared<sup>8</sup>

## Billions of Dollars Benefit the U.S. Economy

- Sportsmen alone spend \$90 Billion Annually<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>See <http://www.akti.org/resources/people-use-knives> for a partial list of knife users

<sup>2</sup>State of the Sporting Knife & Tool Industry, American Knife & Tool Institute (published 2012; data 2010)

<sup>3</sup>Survey - State of the Sporting Knife & Tool Industry, American Knife & Tool Institute (data 2010)

<sup>4</sup>Outdoor Foundation's Outdoor Recreation Report 2011

<sup>5</sup>U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service, 2011 National Survey

<sup>6</sup>U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics 2011

<sup>7</sup>U.S. Department of Labor Statistics

<sup>8</sup>2011 BSA Report to the Nation.

