



MAFES Dawg Tracks

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Safety Tips: Prevent Workplace Horseplay



Fooling around on the job can be dangerous. However, disregarding the fact of the dangers involved, if horseplay is happening, then no work is being done. Keeping this fact in mind, we need to train our folks to refrain from idle antics and horseplay. Both only cause unrest among the victims and can create dangerous situations.

Following are some points that, if practiced, can help to curb horseplay in our work areas:

❖ **HORSEPLAY AND FOOLING AROUND ARE THE OPPOSITES OF SAFE, RESPONSIBLE WORK -**

The dictionary describes:

- ✓ Horseplay as rough fun.
- ✓ Fooling around means doing foolish, useless things.
- ✓ A fool is a person with little or no judgment or common sense.

❖ **WORKPLACE RULES BAN HORSEPLAY BECAUSE IT'S DANGEROUS -**

Horseplay is usually a friendly, physical way of letting off steam. But this type of fooling around is dangerous on the job because:

- ✓ When you're fooling around, you aren't concentrating on your work.
- ✓ Directing your horseplay at others is even more dangerous. They're not expecting the distraction and it could easily cause an accident, such as falling into a moving machine part, slipping on the floor, or dropping a tool.
- ✓ Giving less than full concentration and attention to safety procedures makes you less likely to notice or account for hazards until it may be too late.
- ✓ Most accidents are caused by unsafe acts - and horseplay itself is an unsafe act.

❖ **HORSEPLAY CREATES UNNECESSARY RISKS -**

Most workplace accidents can be presented by staying alert to potential hazards and following safety rules. You can't practice either of these when you are indulging in horseplay. Some examples of causes of horseplay are:

- ✓ **Running, chasing, or pushing can cause slips, trips, or falls and other accidents.** You may:
 - Not notice spills, leaks, or other items lying on the floor.
 - Crash into or push someone else into heavy equipment or moving parts.
 - Knock boxes or materials onto a person.
 - Knock over open containers of hazardous substances

✓ **Throwing tools is a frequent cause of injuries. They may:**

- Accidentally stab someone with a sharp edge.
- Hit someone in the head, eye, foot, etc., and cause an injury.
- Fall from a height and hit a person below with tremendous impact.
- Fooling around with PPE can damage it and expose you or another employee to a hazardous substance.
- Speeding or stunt driving with a forklift could cause it to tip over and hit people or other objects, possibly injuring the driver or pedestrians.
- Climbing on or under forklift forks or moving crane parts can cause you to get crushed or pushed – besides, it's against the law.
- Running with a hand truck could spill your load on someone or run over their feet.
- Pushing, teasing, or otherwise distracting people working with machinery could cause pinch point or other injuries.
- Practical jokes like "hiding" someone's PPE, dropping your half of the load, turning off the lights, etc., are not funny - they are dangerous.

❖ **TAKE YOUR JOB, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND SAFETY SERIOUSLY -**

- When hired, you agreed to be responsible for doing your job correctly, which always includes doing it safely, as well as efficiently.
- Safety rules and procedures are designed to protect you.
- Everyone must follow the safety rules -
 - Failure to follow the rules is dangerous - for you and for others.
 - Horseplay and other safety rule violations can lead to disciplinary action.
- Don't indulge in horseplay or accuse those who won't go along or have "no sense of humor."
 - Think how bad you would feel if your horseplay injured or sickened someone else - maybe seriously.
 - Don't allow other people to engage you in horseplay.

We are grateful and thankful that we have very little of this demeanor in any of our stations. Our management does a good job of controlling this type of immature conduct.