



Horseplay... Invites Danger

Nearly everyone has heard a practical joker say “This one is gonna kill ya.” Well, hopefully it never will. However, practical jokes invite danger. Horseplay benefits no one and usually only builds up resentment and fosters retaliation. Practical jokes should be discouraged.

Examples of Horseplay

- Scaring someone.
- Air hosing someone.
- Wrestling with someone.
- Boxing.
- Goosing.
- Dropping objects next to someone.
- Throwing water on someone.
- Throwing objects or tools at someone.
- Placing tacks under someone.

Horseplay Creates Unnecessary Risks

You can prevent most workplace accidents by being alert to hazards and following safety rules. You can't do either when you indulge in horseplay. That creates risks. For example:

Running, chasing, or pushing can cause slips, trips, falls, and other accidents. You may:

- a) Not notice spills or items lying on the floor
- b) Lose your footing
- c) Crash into, or push someone else into, heavy equipment or moving parts
- d) Knock boxes or materials on to a person
- e) Knock over open containers of hazardous substances

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

- f) Stab someone with a sharp edge.
- g) Hit someone in the head, eye, foot, etc., and cause an injury.
- h) Bounce off a wall, table, or other surface and hit someone.
- i) Fall from a height and hit a person below with tremendous impact.

Fooling around with PPE can damage it and expose you or another worker to a hazardous substance.

1. Speeding or stunt driving with a forklift can cause it to tip over or hit people or objects, possibly injuring the driver or pedestrians.
2. Climbing on or under forklift forks or moving crane parts can cause you to get crushed or pushed. It's against the law.
3. Running with a hand truck could spill the load on someone or run over feet.
4. Pushing, teasing, or otherwise distracting people working with machinery could cause pinch point or other injuries.
5. Practical jokes like “hiding” someone's PPE, dropping your half of a load, turning out lights, etc., are not funny— they're dangerous.

Remember: Practical jokers cannot guarantee the success of their jokes. They can guarantee that they increase the chance of an accident occurring. Imagine a joke that backfires, resulting in an injury or death to a co-worker. Do you want any part of that? It's easy enough to get hurt on the job as it is. Let's not increase anyone's chances.