



GOALS

This safety session should teach employees to:

- Realize that fooling around on the job causes accidents and injuries.
- Reduce the risk of injury and take safety responsibilities seriously.

Applicable Regulations: General Duty Clause Section. 5 (b)



1. Horseplay and fooling around are the opposites of safe, responsible work.

According to the dictionary:

- Horseplay means rough fun.
- Fooling around means doing foolish, useless things.

2. Workplace rules ban horseplay because it's dangerous.

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

- When you're fooling around, you're not concentrating on your work.
- Directing your horseplay at others is even more dangerous. They're not expecting the distraction and could easily have an accident, such as falling into a moving machine part, slipping on the floor, dropping a tool, etc.
- 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.

3. 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:
 - Not notice spills or items lying on the floor.
 - Lose your footing.
 - Crash into, or push someone else into, heavy equipment or moving parts.
 - Knock boxes or materials on to a person.
 - Knock over open containers of hazardous substances.
- Throwing tools is a frequent cause of injuries. They may:
 - Stab someone with a sharp edge.
 - Hit someone in the head, eye, foot, etc., and cause an injury.
 - Bounce off a wall, table, or other surface and hit someone.
 - Fall from a height and hit a person below with tremendous impact.
- Fooling around with personal protective equipment (PPE) can damage it and expose you or another worker to a hazardous substance.



- Speeding or stunt driving with a forklift can cause it to tip over or hit people or objects, possibly injuring the driver or pedestrians.
- Climbing on or under forklift forks or moving crane parts can cause you to get crushed or struck. It's against the law.
- Running with a hand truck could spill the load on someone or run over feet.
- Pushing, teasing, or otherwise distracting people working with tools or machinery could injure, as well as work errors.
- Practical jokes like "hiding" someone's PPE, dropping your half of a load, turning out lights, etc., are not funny—they're dangerous.

4. Take your job, your responsibilities, and safety seriously.

- You're responsible for performing your job correctly, which includes safely.
- Safety rules and procedures are designed to protect you.
- Everyone must follow 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 of having "no sense of humor."
 - Think how bad you would feel if your horseplay injured or sickened someone else—maybe seriously.
 - Think how foolish you would feel if your horseplay injured or sickened you.
- Don't allow other people to engage you in horseplay.



DISCUSSION POINTS:

Provide examples (without naming names) of how horseplay has caused, or could cause safety problems in your operation.



CONCLUSION:

- Horseplay causes accidents and is banned on the job.
- Physical fooling around on the job is a serious hazard. Don't do it.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

Have your employees take the Horseplay Is No Laughing Matter quiz. By testing their knowledge, you can judge their understanding of the need to work safely and whether they need to review this important topic again soon.



Safety Has No Sense of Humor

Working safely requires knowledge, attention, and common sense. It's no laughing matter. Horseplay takes away your safety margin.

When you're at work, DON'T:

- Run.
- Chase or push another person.
- Throw tools, materials, personal protective equipment (PPE), beverage cans, etc.
- Play with sharp-edged tools.
- Speed or show off while driving a forklift.
- Climb on or under forklift forks or moving crane parts.
- Handle PPE carelessly.
- Run with a dolly or hand truck.
- Distract someone who's working with tools or machinery.
- Play practical jokes.
- Think that safety rules don't apply to you.
- Accuse people who take safety seriously of having "no sense of humor."
- Use equipment for anything but its intended purpose.
- Allow other people to engage you in horseplay.



Safety isn't a joke—Take it seriously!



La Seguridad No Tiene Sentido del Humor

El trabajar seguro requiere conocimiento, atención y sentido común. No es cosa de risa. Las payasadas le quitan su margen de seguridad.

Cuando esté trabajando, NO:

- Corra
- Persiga o empuje a otra persona
- Tire por el aire herramientas, materiales, equipo de protección personal, latas de bebidas. Juegue con herramientas con bordes cortantes
- Exceda los límites de velocidad ni haga piruetas al manejar un elevador de carga
- Se suba ni se pare de bajo de las barras donde encajan las cargas de las carretillas elevadoras o las piezas de una grúa en movimiento
- Trate los equipos de protección personal sin cuidado
- Corra con una carretilla o carretón
- Distraiga a las personas que están trabajando con herramientas o maquinarias
- Haga bromas pesadas
- Piense que las reglas de seguridad son para que otros las respeten y no usted
- Acuse a las personas que toman la seguridad en serio de "no tener sentido del humor"
- Use los equipos para todo menos sus propósitos previstos
- Deje que otras personas lo meta en payasadas



¡Sólo los tontos tontean en el trabajo!