



Weekly Safety Meetings

Safety Training for the Construction Industry

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Standard Subscription

COMPANY NAME: _____

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Horseplay Isn't Funny

Everyone enjoys a good joke from time to time. Joking provides an avenue to blow off some steam and to have some fun. Getting along with your co-workers and sharing a laugh are part of a healthy jobsite—as long as no one gets hurt. Horseplay however, crosses the line. Practical jokes and physical horseplay can cause property damage and lead to people getting injured.

Like crime, horseplay doesn't pay. And you might not get paid if you're injured during horseplay. Legally, horseplay can be considered misconduct, so you could be denied workers' comp benefits if you're injured. In addition, if you get fired for horseplay, you may not be eligible for unemployment benefits because your actions were misconduct. If horseplay leads to a tragic accident like the death of a co-worker, the prosecutor or the insurance company could push for criminal charges against those who planned the joke. Is getting a laugh worth these risks?

Horseplay and pranks are a safety hazard. The purpose of horseplay is often to startle, surprise, frighten, or embarrass a co-worker. Imagine what could happen if that person is startled when on a ladder, scaffold, or roof; or near chemicals, sharp tools, or flammables. The prankster is purposely creating a hazard so others can laugh at someone's expense. When anyone fools around on the jobsite, it threatens everybody's safety.

As a professional construction worker, make it your policy not to participate in horseplay or practical jokes, and make

it clear to your co-workers that you will not tolerate horseplay. Be prepared to walk away whenever necessary. Your personal safety and that of those around you is what is most important on the job.

If someone plays a practical joke on you, don't retaliate. You'll only make the situation worse and encourage more dangerous and disruptive behavior. Talk to your supervisor if you have problems with a practical joker or co-workers who engage in any form of horseplay.

If you feel like running, racing, wrestling, playing ball, or performing stunts, wait until you are in a place that is appropriate—and the jobsite is not that place. You can meet up with co-workers for a game of football, soccer, or paintball on your days off.

Be considerate of others. A joke that you think is funny might be offensive to others and could even be considered harassment, which is illegal at work. Speak up and take a firm stand against workplace harassment and any other kind of bullying you witness. If you are being harassed at work, talk with your supervisor. Don't let humor, sarcasm, or teasing get out of hand. We all deserve a safe place to work, and nobody can perform a job well in a hostile, intimidating environment.

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SAFETY REMINDER
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Don't tolerate horseplay or practical jokes on the jobsite!

NOTES:

SPECIAL TOPICS /EMPLOYEE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS/NOTES:

S.A.F.E. CARDS* PLANNED FOR THIS WEEK:

REVIEWED MSDS #

SUBJECT:

MEETING DOCUMENTATION:

JOB NAME:

MEETING DATE:

SUPERVISOR:

ATTENDEES:

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.