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.
- **Fool** is a person with little or no judgment or common sense.

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 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 pushed. 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 machinery could cause pinch point or other injuries.

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 with your horseplay you injured or sickened yourself.

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 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.
HORSEPLAY QUIZ

1. When you indulge in horseplay at work, you endanger your own safety because:
   a. You’re not concentrating on what you’re doing
   b. You’re falling behind schedule
   c. You’re getting in trouble with your supervisor

2. When you involve others in horseplay, you endanger their safety because:
   a. They could get angry
   b. Surprise moves could distract them and place them in a hazardous position
   c. They’ll do something to get back at you

3. Running is considered dangerous horseplay because of risks like:
   a. Slips, trips, and falls
   b. Forgetting to check chemical labels and MSDSs
   c. Lifting accidents

4. Throwing tools is:
   a. Okay as long as they’re not sharp
   b. Okay if the catcher is expecting them
   c. Never safe

5. When you work at a height above other workers, dropping or throwing items is:
   a. Especially dangerous, since they gain speed and impact while falling

   b. Not especially dangerous, since they lose impact while falling
   c. Not especially dangerous, since your scaffold or flooring will catch what you drop

6. You can ride or hang on forklift forks, as long as they’re not loaded.
   a. True     b. False

7. Forklift operators, no matter how skilled and experienced, are never permitted to speed.
   a. True     b. False

8. Lightly pushing or punching a person who’s working with tools or machinery is:
   a. Safe, if they’re wearing PPE
   b. Unsafe, since there’s a risk of contact with pinch points, moving parts, etc.
   c. Safe, as long as they’re at least arm’s length from moving parts

9. If someone tries to engage you in horseplay, you should:
   a. Yell for your supervisor
   b. Go along if you’re not near any dangerous equipment
   c. Refuse to participate

10. It’s against the rules to engage in horseplay.
    a. True     b. False

When you have completed this quiz, turn it in to your supervisor.

Name: ___________________________    Date: ___________________________
ANSWERS TO HORSEPLAY QUIZ

1. a. You’re not concentrating on what you’re doing.
2. b. Surprise moves could distract them and place them in a hazardous position.
3. a. Slips, trips, and falls.
4. c. Never safe.
5. a. Especially dangerous, since they gain speed and impact while falling.
6. b. False. Never ride or hang on forklift forks.
7. a. True.
8. b. Unsafe, since there’s a risk of contact with pinch points, moving parts, etc.
9. c. Refuse to participate.
10. a. True.
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, PPE, beverage cans
- 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

Fooling around on the job is a job for fools!