



HORSEPLAY

Purpose

Horseplay may seem harmless, but it is a serious safety hazard that can lead to injuries, damaged equipment, lost productivity, and disciplinary action. Every employee is responsible for maintaining a safe and professional work environment.

What Is Horseplay?

Horseplay includes any rough or reckless behavior that is not related to work, such as:

- Pushing, shoving, or wrestling
- Throwing objects
- Practical jokes or pranks
- Running in work areas
- Distracting others while they are working
- Misusing tools, machinery, or equipment for fun

Why Is Horseplay Dangerous?

Even minor horseplay can quickly result in:

- Slips, trips, and falls
- Cuts, bruises, and sprains
- Serious injuries from moving equipment or machinery
- Property and equipment damage
- Reduced focus and productivity
- Harm to coworkers and bystanders

Many workplace injuries occur when employees become distracted or engage in unsafe behavior that has nothing to do with the job.

Real-World Examples

- An employee jokingly pushes a coworker, causing them to fall and suffer a back injury.
- Someone throws a small object that strikes a worker operating equipment, creating a near miss.
- Employees race or run through a work area and collide with materials or machinery.

Employee Responsibilities

- Stay focused on the task at hand.
- Treat coworkers with respect.
- Use tools and equipment only for their intended purpose.
- Avoid practical jokes and disruptive behavior.
- Report unsafe behavior to a supervisor.
- Set a positive example for others.

Supervisor Responsibilities

- Address horseplay immediately.
- Reinforce company safety policies.
- Lead by example.
- Investigate incidents and near misses involving horseplay.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever witnessed horseplay that could have caused an injury?
2. How can distractions affect safety in your workplace?
3. What should you do if you observe horseplay among coworkers?

Key Takeaway

There is no safe horseplay in the workplace. A moment of fun can result in a lifelong injury. Stay professional, stay focused, and work safely.

For more safety tips and courses, visit ndsc.org

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