

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES

Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

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No. 22

Week of 05/31/2021

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

HORSEPLAY

The subject of today's safety meeting is horseplay. The dictionary defines horseplay as rough or boisterous play. On a construction site, that usually means some type of practical joke or some other nonsense like playing catch with tools or materials. We've all seen someone play a practical joke on a co-worker; hopefully no one was hurt. Horseplay on the job leads to accidents, injuries, and property damage. Horseplay and practical jokes **are not permitted** on this site.

Most groups have at least one individual who likes to be the "life of the party". To start with, remember that work is not a party, it's work. Construction work is dangerous enough when everyone is paying attention to his or her responsibilities; unnecessary distractions and foolish pranks only increase the risks. Certainly none of you would hurt a co-worker intentionally. Unfortunately, people do play practical jokes and, even though unintentional, the end result can be serious injury or damage to equipment, vehicles, or material.

Take this story as an example of just how dangerous horseplay can be. A joker thought that it would be hilarious to make his friend jump by giving him a quick blast of compressed air on the back of the neck. His friend heard the joker and started to turn around. The blast of air shot straight into the man's right ear, rupturing the eardrum. Instead of a "harmless" surprise, the joker permanently destroyed his friend's ability to hear in his right ear. No one was supposed to get hurt; it was just going to make him jump. Everyone would have a good laugh, and then get back to work. Regardless of the intent, the man is still deaf in his right ear, and will be for the rest of his life. Is the laugh really worth the risks? Could you sleep at night if you had destroyed your best friend's hearing?

In the end, most practical jokes are neither as innocent nor as funny as they were supposed to be. They reduce effectiveness, distract other workers, and substantially increase the likelihood of accidents, injuries, and property damage. Everyone needs humor in their lives, but a dangerous construction site is not the place for horseplay and tricks. Stop and think! Don't participate in horseplay of any kind on this site, and don't encourage others to do so by paying attention to or laughing at their antics. Leave the practical jokes and slapstick to the comedians in the movies and on television.

SAFETY REMINDER

**"All the world loves a clown"
unless the clown shuts down the job
or injures a co-worker!**

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____