

# MAFES Dawg Tracks



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Avoid Harmful Horseplay



Horseplay in any fashion has no place in a working environment.

## **WHAT'S AT STAKE:**

Horseplay is rough play, practical jokes, and other physical humor that can endanger workers. Horseplay at work is also linked to behavior. In those cases, jokes are actually harassment targeting new workers or others who, in someone's opinion, does not fit in with the crew.

## **WHAT'S THE DANGER:**

A victim's explosive anger is one danger arising from horseplay. Even if a prank doesn't cause physical injury, it could be bring about retaliation. We read occasionally where workplace "joking" results in fatally stabbed jokers. Even the most light-hearted horseplay can distract workers for a second and cost someone a serious injury. Every year people are injured during an act of "horseplay." I'm sorry doesn't bring an eye, hand, foot, or possibly a life after a horseplay incident.

A good example of the above is where three innocent people were killed because vandals had destroyed a stop sign at an intersection and the vehicle smashed into a transport truck. The vandals probably thought that they were doing a funny thing, but proved to be otherwise. I'm sure that all of us have incidents involving horseplay, but hopefully they didn't cause a loss of a body member or life.

## **HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF:**

### **Think of the Victim**

We should always be aware and make our co-workers aware of how practical jokes or horseplay incidents can affect someone else. I believe that in this situation the Golden Rule is a good thing to always consider. "Do unto others as you would have them do to you." Put yourself at the brunt of a horseplay incident and how it would affect you. It can be endangering, scary and belittling to the other party that might be involved. I know that if this happens, the practical jokes or horseplay would cease.

### **Don't Play**

If someone attempts a practical joke on you or asks you to assist in "pulling one off" on someone else, hopefully, you will discourage it and explain to them the dangers involved and above all that horseplay has no place in any work environment or social environment.

### **Discourage It**

We should discourage any type of practical jokes or horseplay. As stated above, it has no place in ay form of society, be it work or play. Any tool or appliance can become a lethal weapon if misused.

### **No Attention**

In most cases, if we ignore horseplay or play it down," it sometimes will tend to discourage it." Also we should encourage our employees to report possible rumors of forthcoming thoughts of or an actual plan for a practical joke.

**DON'T BE A FOOL, CAUSE SAFETY IS  
THE RULE-  
SO LET'S MAKE THAT OUR RULE !!**