



# MAFES Dawg Tracks



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## Safety Tips: Avoiding Horseplay

**A parable in any business, whether it be agriculture or in manufacturing, is that horseplay won't be tolerated.**

### What is horseplay?

**It can be defined as:**

- ✓ Rough, boisterous pranks occurring in the work place.
- ✓ Activities such as joking that included physical contact, messing around, racing, grabbing, careless vehicle operation, and peer pressure to take part in unsafe acts, harassment or unsafe acts in general.
- ✓ You can normally find one in every group, the prankster, a.k.a. "smart aleck."
- ✓ Each year in all types of business, hundreds of horseplay antics have cause injuries of varying degrees.
- ✓ Some states, where serious injuries have occurred, the courts have dealt out prosecutions.

### HORSEPLAY & FOOLING AROUND- THE OPPOSITE OF SAFE, RESPONSIBLE WORK-

- As mentioned above, horseplay means rough fun.
- Fooling around means doing foolish, useless things.
- Fool is a person with little or no judgment or common sense.

### WORK PLACE RULES BAN HORESPLAY BECAUSE IT'S DANGEROUS-

Horseplay is a friendly, physical way to let off steam, but at the same time is extremely dangerous on the job because:

- While fooling around, you're not concentrating on your work.
- Directing your horseplay at other is even more dangerous. They aren't expecting distractions, so a sudden reaction could and probably would cause them to have an accident such as falling from an implement, dropping a tool or slipping on the floor, etc.
- Horseplay results in you not giving full concentration and attention to the safety rules which will make you less likely to notice or account for the hazards of the job. It might result in an accident- which is too late.
- Most accidents are caused by unsafe acts- and horseplay itself is an unsafe act.

### HORSEPLAY CREATES UNNECESSARY RISKS-

You can prevent most workplace accidents by being alert to hazards and following safety rules. You can't do either of these when you enter into acts of horseplay. That creates risks such as:

- Running, chasing or pushing can cause slips, trips, falls or 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 into 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, or 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 a 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.
- ✓ Pushing, teasing or otherwise distracting people working with machinery could cause pinch point or other injuries.
- ✓ Practical jokes like "hiding" someone's PPE, dropping half of a load, turning out lights, etc. aren't funny- and are very dangerous.

### TAKE YOUR JOB, YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES, AND SAFETY SERIOUSLY-

You're responsible for performing your job safely.

- Safety rules and procedures are designed to protect you.
- Everyone must follow safety rules:
  - ~Failure to follow the rules is dangerous- to you and other folks.
  - ~Horseplay and other safety rules violations can lead to disciplinary actions.

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 in horseplay.

**LEAVE THE HORSEPLAY  
TO THE HORSES!**

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**DON'T WORK ALONE ~  
WATCH FOR OTHERS!!**