

Toolbox Talk # 40

HORSEPLAY



Company Name:	
Job Name:	
Date:	

Key Points

1. Horseplay on construction sites can lead to serious falls, broken bones, and other injuries.
2. Roughhousing near heavy machinery increases the risk of fatal accidents and severe damage.
3. Pushing, running, or joking around can cause slips, trips, and falls on uneven or cluttered surfaces.
4. Throwing tools or materials as a prank can result in serious head, eye, or hand injuries.
5. Distracting equipment operators, such as crane or forklift drivers, can lead to loss of control and dangerous collisions.
6. Misusing compressed air for pranks can cause severe injuries, including internal damage, hearing loss, or eye trauma.
7. Unsafe use of ladders or scaffolding during horseplay increases the risk of falls and serious workplace injuries.
8. OSHA requires workers to maintain professionalism and focus to prevent accidents, injuries, and job site disruptions.



OSHA reports that **1 in 10** preventable workplace deaths involve risky behavior like horseplay

Top 5 horseplay risks...

1. **Falls and Injuries** – Roughhousing leads to slips, trips, and broken bones.
2. **Machinery Accidents** – Horseplay near equipment causes serious accidents.
3. **Distractions** – Fooling around diverts attention, leading to dangerous mistakes.
4. **Thrown Tools** – Pranks with tools cause head or eye injuries.
5. **Unsafe Equipment Use** – Climbing on machinery increases injury risk.



1. Am I putting myself or others at risk by fooling around?
2. Could my actions distract someone operating heavy machinery?
3. Is this behavior likely to cause a preventable accident?
4. Would I be responsible if someone got injured due to my horseplay?

Pranks and jokes, a risky game,
Workplace safety,
not the same.

Summary

Horseplay on construction projects can lead to serious injuries, accidents, and distractions. Roughhousing near equipment or tools increases the risk of slips, falls, and machinery accidents. Maintaining focus and professionalism is essential to ensure safety and prevent preventable injuries on the job site.



OSHA does not have a specific regulation for horseplay but enforces general safety standards to prevent accidents caused by unsafe behavior. Construction sites require workers to maintain focus, avoid distractions, and adhere to safety protocols to prevent injuries due to horseplay.

Key Horseplay Regulation

29 CFR 1926.21 – Safety Training and Education

This regulation emphasizes the importance of training workers on safety protocols, including maintaining professionalism and avoiding horseplay. It ensures workers are aware of the risks posed by distractions and roughhousing, promoting a safe and focused work environment.



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ATTENDEES

Print Name:	Signature:

Additional Comments: