

TOOLBOX TALK 19/60

DATE:

TOPIC: HORSEPLAY

OBJECTIVE: TO ENSURE WORKERS UNDERSTAND THE DANGERS OF HORSEPLAY



Easiest way to conduct and document your safety meetings!

→ Some things to know before you give your talk:

- You have probably seen your share of how some people try to get laughs and attention by playing “jokes” on other workers.
- Unfortunately, these people can usually find a few workers, unwise enough to encourage them.
- Remind workers that safety hazards are present everyday on our jobs. Broken ladders, hand tools in poor condition and flying objects are bad enough, but that the practical joker just adds one more unnecessary hazard.

→ Some things that have happened as a result of horseplay are:

- A worker lost an eye because someone thought it was funny to throw something at him from a distance.
- Ruptured eardrums or ruptured bowels have been cause by fooling around with air hoses.

→ Other “practical jokes” that can cause injury are:

- Tripping
- Pushing
- Throwing tools or other objects
- A “hot foot” that catches clothing on fire
- Altering someone’s equipment

Injuries from horseplay can result in criminal prosecution. Courts have held that these injuries are not just an accident, but a deliberate act.

→ Try this for show and tell!

- Have the group list the ways somebody could get hurt on the job. Then make the point that with all the real hazards that exist, why would anybody want to take the chance on getting injured be horsing around?

→ Questions you can use to get them talking:

- Why does horseplay occur on at the work place?
- How can horseplay be discouraged?
- Has anyone ever had an accident – or know of one – involving horseplay?

