

# SAFETY MANAGEMENT SERVICES **CONSTRUCTION SAFETY BREAKS**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR SAFETY CONCERNS: \_\_\_\_\_

DISCUSSION LEADER: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Today's Topic: Horseplay

Horseplay does not have a place on the construction site! All of us like to have fun, but when horseplay gets started on the job, it usually ends up with someone getting injured, and none of us really want that to happen.

### Discussion: What safety hazards have you observed on the job?

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### The Risks: Serious Injury

Practical jokes (and those who initiate them) are not wanted. For example, take the foreman who knew that one of his employees was extremely sensitive to loud noise. One day, he snuck up on the employee and set off a pack of firecrackers, and the sudden loud noise surprised and shocked the employee, who fell awkwardly, hurting his shoulder. The end result of this "joke" was not funny: a workers' compensation claim was filed, and the employee was out of work for some time before completely recovering.

Sometimes, horseplay can go even further. For instance, a worker decides to play a trick on another worker by taking off (or changing the position of) a safety device on a power tool. Something like this is not only stupid but extremely dangerous and could cause an accident with serious injuries.

## Solution: Think of the Consequences First

If we thought of all the consequences of horseplay, it would stop most of it from happening. We're usually thinking of the look on our coworker's face, not potential injuries. If something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't.

Practical jokers should be banned from all construction sites. If you see any kind of horseplay taking place, stop it at once! Let the other person know that you don't like it, and if it continues, you will notify your supervisor to put a stop to it.

You should also remind the jokester that if the prank results in an injury or death, they are subject to prosecution, possibly imprisonment.

Be a safe worker. Check your work area for hazards, inspect your tools before use, set a good example, follow the rules, and never be the person who horses around.

## If a prank backfires and someone is injured, it's no joke!

What are the consequences of pulling pranks while on the jobsite?

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Besides not engaging in horseplay, how can you keep yourself safe on the jobsite?

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