

# Horseplay



## Is No Joke

**H**umor is an important part of life. People who work together and share a sense of humor are probably happier and more productive on the job. But when employees express their sense of humor through horseplay or practical jokes, they are inviting serious trouble.

### **Humor Can Hurt...**

Some people can laugh it off when they are the butt of a joke, but it's hard to tell how a practical joke is going to affect someone. Practical jokes that humiliate or embarrass others can result in anger, hurt feelings, a lack of trust between workers and even a desire for revenge.

### **...In More Than One Way**

Practical jokes and horseplay can be safety hazards on the job. Startling or distracting a worker who is using dangerous equipment can have disastrous consequences. When practical jokes are common at a worksite, employees may not be paying enough attention to the work because they are on the lookout for the next joke. And horseplay that gets physical can quickly get out of hand and lead to injury or even death.

### **Is It Worth It?**

If you get hurt while engaging in horseplay, you may not be covered by worker's compensation because it is not a job-related injury. Even if you don't get hurt, you may lose your job if you break company rules. And if someone else gets hurt because of your horseplay, you may face a lawsuit, which could really put your sense of humor to the test.

### **Keep It Light**

Your sense of humor is an important asset. Using it wisely and with restraint at work will benefit you and all of those around you.