

# Stop Horsing Around



Practical jokes and horsing around may seem like fun at first, but they can hurt people physically and emotionally, and are always a bad idea in the workplace. It's up to everyone to protect each other by keeping horseplay and practical jokes out of the workplace, especially when you work around hot appliances and sharp utensils. If someone is horsing around at work, you don't have to confront him or her in front of everyone; you can take the joker aside and remind him or her of the possible consequences or report the behavior to your supervisor.

## How Horseplay Affects the Workplace

- ◆ When practical jokes are common in the workplace, it's hard to pay attention to your job because you're always on the lookout for the next joke.
- ◆ Horseplay is a safety hazard that can quickly get out of hand and lead to injury or death.
- ◆ If you get hurt as a result of horseplay, don't expect to be covered by workers' compensation; it's not a job-related injury.
- ◆ If someone else gets hurt as a result of your horseplay or joke, you may be liable for damages and you'll risk losing your job.
- ◆ Even if a practical joke isn't dangerous in itself, it can result in humiliation, embarrassment, anger, hurt feelings, distrust and even a desire for revenge.
- ◆ Horsing around can make customers question your professionalism and attention to them.

### **Report Unsafe Behavior**

*If you see someone behaving in an unprofessional way at work, let the person know it's unsafe and report it to a supervisor.*