



The Joker

Seems like there's one in every work place. I'm talkin' about the fella who is always playing tricks on unsuspecting co-workers. This comical picture shows a worker disposing of a bomb and the practical joker of the group preparing to pop a paper bag behind him. Guess the thought is that everyone will get a "bang" out of his little joke.

Although I don't think this picture is real (I think it's a composite), it makes you wonder whether a joke like this would really be appropriate. I recently read about an incident that really did happen. A mechanic using a torch was welding in a civilian garage. He squirted water from a water extinguisher onto a coworker who was walking by. In retaliation, the coworker picked up a container full of liquid that he thought was water (but which was actually gasoline) and threw it at the welding mechanic. As a result of this mutual horseplay, the mechanic suffered third-degree burns over much of his body. Nobody's laughing now.

Folks, there's a time and a place for horseplay. If you're going to joke around, make sure you think about the possible negative consequences of your actions ... and never play around when you (or your victim) are working on or with something hazardous.