

Five stupid things to do with your downtime at work: Why office safety may depend on you alone



By Chris Loomis, Safety Expert

Poor bony fellow! Stuck at his desk waiting for his computer to reboot! How many of us have had the same fate? Come on, let's see those bony little hands. Computers are notorious for making their users ready to chuck them out of the nearest handy window, but there are other things you could do with this downtime.



The next time you are waiting for a page to load, something to finish printing or just for your computer to take itself back out of the weird ghost-white screen you could:

1. Stage office chair races with the winner getting Johnson's corner office.
2. Hold pin the nose on Johnson's corporate badge playoffs.
3. Play name the mystery meat in Johnson's lunch (again)
4. Unscrew all of the bolts in Johnson's office furniture.

Or, instead of doing any of those things, you could opt for more productive things to do during your downtime, things that will not only improve your own productivity but may improve office relations as well.

The next time the computer is on the fritz you could:

1. Walk through your area assessing safety dangers. Are cords neatly tucked behind desks or are they all askew, just waiting to catch that new secretary unaware? Are power cords plugged into proper strips or are they just jabbed into extension cords? (Is that cord smoking?)
2. Is the hallway and area between each cubicle neat and tidy or are there obstacles everywhere?
3. Most importantly is the pathway to the restroom and your new, err, Johnson's office a straight shot?

Keep your eyes open and make sure that you are not contributing to further dangers in the workplace in any way. Your safety and your job may depend on it. Oh, and Mr. Johnson? The boss needs to see you right away.

Safety is an attitude that begins in our thoughts. We can create an accident-free work environment at work and at home if we believe we can and are committed to the process.

Chris has more than 20 years of professional safety experience. As the marketing manager for DuPont's environmental and safety services, he has seen first-hand the safety challenges faced by plant personnel while working with more than 600 chemical, petrochemical, and manufacturing facilities. Chris is an award-winning international safety speaker and author.

For more information or to book your next safety speaker, please visit <http://www.safetyattitude.com> or call Chris Loomis at 713-927-6592.