

The Scrap Recycling Industry: **Safely or Not at All**

The scrap recycling industry is committed to the safety of its 138,000 workers and hundreds of thousands of customers. We believe that a zero-accident culture is achievable through the development and implementation of aggressive management models that embrace the certainty that safety and productivity can coexist in the scrap processing environment.

This kind of unwavering commitment to safety as a core value requires a business model that places worker and customer well-being at the very top of every decision tree. If a job cannot be done safely, it simply won't be done at all. Because the scrap recycling industry recognizes that no dollar in revenue — or million dollars in revenue — can possibly justify any injury, the industry has chosen to adopt as its rallying cry, "Safely or Not At All."

The scrap recycling industry recognizes that managing for safety is no different than managing for any other business objective. Once the objective is defined (zero accidents), it is communicated throughout the organization, a plan is put in place to achieve the goal and progress is tracked. When problems are encountered, they are addressed and solved.

Years of data show that profits soar when placed second to safety. A safer workplace is cleaner and better organized, making that workplace more efficient. A healthy workforce is reliable and well-trained. Reduced injuries trigger reduced insurance rates. By factoring safety considerations into new installations, one ends up with better-engineered installations. It goes on and on, creating a "win-win-win" situation for the industry, its workers and its customers.

The scrap recycling industry, through its national trade association, the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. (ISRI), offers its members an aggressive slate of training programs and outreach services that are designed to ease the burden of creating and maintaining a safe work environment for employees.

ISRI's programs and services range from the on-site Scrap Safety Blueprint (assessing a company's areas of strengths and weaknesses) to the OSHA 10-Hour Training program (two-day safety workshop recognized by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration) to ISRI's Safety Transportation Program (minimizing driver accidents and injuries) to the ISRI Safety and Environmental Council (ISEC) in which safety issues are discussed openly and thoroughly among safety professionals. Further supporting these efforts are numerous communications tools that help companies fully adopt and effectively implement safety programs throughout a company's operations.

Through hard work and diligent commitment to safety, the scrap recycling industry is making significant and meaningful progress in providing a safe workplace.

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