

## Beware the Ramp-Up

We're in a soft scrap recycling season to say the least. Let's hope it doesn't last long. Those who have been in the business for years have seen up markets and down markets, slow times and fast times. One thing's for sure: busier times will come in our scrap yards. In the meantime, we need to remain aware of some unique safety challenges.

Let's talk about first the people who are here. In some cases, workers are not doing their regular jobs; or they may be doing their job plus the job of those who've been laid off. Do the workers in different operation areas really know how to do the job? Do they know how to do it safely and efficiently? Are they fully aware of the hazards in the area where they are less familiar? What hazards are present in a new work area that may not be obvious? Have they been discussed? What PPE is required for this operation? Let's talk about it. Let's not assume just because someone's worked for us for years that they know everything there is to know about a part of the operation they may not have been around for a long time.

Now let's talk about the people who aren't here. When the ramp-up comes, who will these people be? In some cases, they will be former employees who were laid off. They may think they're familiar with the operation, but has anything changed in their absence? Accidents often happen to workers who eagerly jump in without first thinking of the hazards. Some refresher safety training before starting again could pay big dividends in terms of injury prevention.

And what about the brand new employees? Some of the folks we said goodbye to in the down time have found other jobs, or perhaps moved away. There will be employees in some operations who are strangers to the scrap industry. They've never known the hazards. They don't know how to protect themselves. It's up to us to teach them, to train them, to show them.

So, let's take this time today to make sure we're talking the talk, and walking the walk. And let's keep this message in the back of our minds: It's up to us to watch out for each other, whether we have experience or not. Whenever the ramp-up comes, and may it come quickly, we can help each other work . . .

**SAFELY, OR NOT AT ALL.**

This e-mail was produced by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. For more information, visit us on the Web at [www.ISRI.org](http://www.ISRI.org)  
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