



Staying safe when working with scrap metal

Working with scrap metal can be rewarding, but it also comes with risks. From sharp edges to heavy loads, the work requires focus, the right equipment, and a commitment to doing things the safe way. At the Metal Recyclers Association (MRA), we believe safety is everyone's responsibility whether you are in the yard, behind the wheel, or out collecting.

Scrap metal is unpredictable. Sharp pieces can cause cuts, heavy items can lead to back or crush injuries, and certain metals or residues may be harmful. Fires can also occur if flammable materials are present, so staying alert always is essential.

The correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as gloves, safety boots, and protective eyewear, is not optional. Even experienced workers can be injured if they skip basic precautions. Working smart means checking loads before handling them, using the correct tools for cutting or moving metal, keeping work areas clean, and avoiding shortcuts that often lead to accidents.

A culture of safety is built through regular training, toolbox talks, and open communication. If you see something unsafe, speak up. "Every safe day is a successful day," said **Quintin Starkey**, Committee Member of the Metal Recyclers Association of South Africa (MRA). "Our industry is built on hard work, but it must always be backed by safe work."

Protecting yourself also protects your colleagues, your family, and the future of our industry. Safety is not just a rule, it is a responsibility we all share, and it is the standard the MRA will always stand by.