

# 3 Scrap Metal Demolition & Recycling Hazards



Scrap metal is abundant on Portland demolition sites. Recycling it is a great way to keep workers safe, reduce dependence on virgin resources, save energy, and offset Oregon demolition project costs. Taking a smart, safe approach to scrap metal demolition and recycling is also good for the bottom line as it reduces costs related to possible hazards, including:

## ☑ **Radioactive materials:**

Radioactive materials are most commonly found in industrial facilities. A blast furnace, for example, might contain a radioactive gauge. When demolition specialists handle radioactive scrap metal appropriately, they protect nearby communities from exposure to radioactive materials.

## ☑ **Fires:**

Common sources of scrap metal—factories, industrial machinery, vehicles, appliances—often contain or are found around combustible substances, such as oil or paint. Metal objects have the potential to produce sparks during all stages of scrap metal recycling, from sorting to shredding, which increases the risk of fire.

## ☑ **Contamination and pollution:**

In the presence of radiation, or a fire involving scrap metal, smoke and contaminated water can carry pollutants to nearby ecosystems. Dust produced by scrap metal may also contain lead or asbestos, putting workers at risk for health complications.

To protect the environment, workers and communities, demolition specialists follow several precautions, such as:

- Limiting the size of scrap metal piles
- Using ventilation and vacuum systems
- Prohibiting smoking in certain areas
- Maintaining a 50-foot radius around scrap piles
- Regularly testing for heat buildups

Elder Demolition's experts handle scrap metal safely and efficiently to maximize its value so you can receive the greatest asset recovery-related returns. Contact us today for details about our process.



Contact us about your project today.  
We'd love to know the details.

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