



# Media Release - SafeWork SA

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## CRANE MISHAP INCURS \$26k FINE

**The collapse of a crane at a Pt. Augusta railyard in 2005 resulted in a lucky escape for the driver at the time and a \$26,000 fine for the employer today in the SA Industrial Relations Court.**

**Metalcorp Recyclers Pty Ltd** trading as **Onesteel Recycling** received its penalty today after pleading guilty to one count of breaching Section 19 of the *Occupational Health Safety and Welfare Act 1986*, in failing to ensure the safety of an employee.

SafeWork SA prosecuted the company after the incident in November 2005, which occurred during an operation to shift scrap metal at the EDI rail yards.

A truck driver was instructed to operate a mobile crane to load the scrap metal bins onto his vehicle. As it mounted a rail during this procedure, the crane toppled over on its side. The driver escaped unharmed.

The court heard that SafeWork SA's investigation uncovered numerous shortcomings:

- The winch and load gauge on the crane did not work.
- The truck driver was not certified to operate the crane.
- There was no safe operating procedure, manual or maintenance record for the crane.
- There was no adequate hazard identification or risk assessment of the task to be performed.

In his comments on penalty today, Industrial Magistrate Richard Hardy said it was significant that the truck driver was instructed to perform a task that the defendant knew he was not qualified to do:

*"I think it appropriate to treat the risk as being one of at least serious injury."*

For the company's early guilty plea, contrition and cooperation with authorities, Magistrate Hardy discounted the penalty by 20%.

"Any worker assigned a task which they're not qualified to perform runs a substantially higher risk of harm," says SafeWork SA Executive Director, Michele Patterson.

"That risk was greater still given the sub-standard condition of the crane, and fortunately in this case, the employee escaped safely."

"However, the most basic attention to safety detail regarding the machinery and the employee's qualifications to operate it could easily have averted this incident altogether."