

Noise Assessments



If your employees have to shout to be heard by their coworkers, they may be working in a hazardous noise environment. From office spaces to heavy manufacturing companies, many workplace facilities have hazardous noise levels capable of causing hearing loss. In fact, occupational hearing loss is the most common work-related illness in the United States.ⁱ

Common noise hazards:

Manufacturing processes • Compressed air • Power tools • Maintenance activities
Musical instruments • Metal and woodworking equipment

Noise level exposures over 85 decibels may cause hearing loss.ⁱⁱ

Common tools and equipment that can cause hearing loss include:



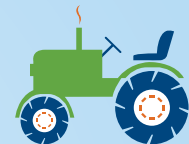
90dB

Lawn Mowers



93dB

Belt Sanders



96dB

Tractors



98dB

Drills



105dB

Spray Painting Equipment



110dB

Chainsaws



120dB

Ambulance Sirens

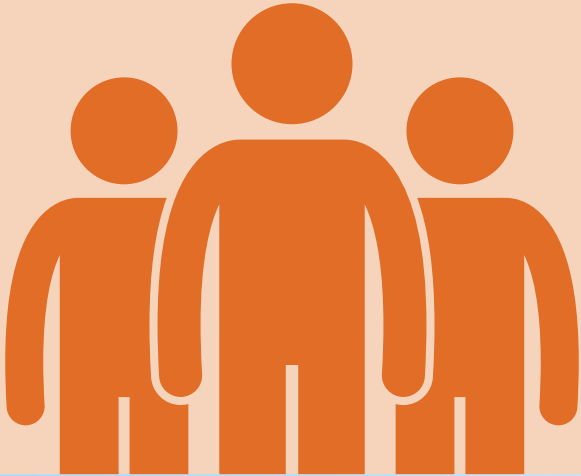
High levels of loud noise can lead to:ⁱⁱⁱ

Permanent hearing impairment • Physical and psychological stress • Reduced productivity
Interference with communication and concentration
Workplace accidents and injuries when employees can't hear warning signals

FLIP FOR MORE

Noise-induced hearing loss can also:

Limit the ability to hear high frequency sounds • Seriously impair the ability to understand speech
Lead to psychological and social isolation



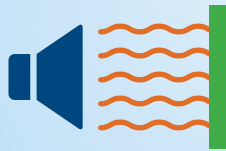
How EMC can help:

- Measure employee noise exposures
- Identify hazardous areas and tasks
- Recommend changes or safeguards to protect employees
- Provide resources to establish a hearing conservation program
- Determine which employees should be enrolled in a hearing conservation program

Perform job duties with lower noise levels by:



Choosing quieter tools and equipment



Using sound-absorbing materials



Putting a barrier between the noise source and employees (e.g., an acoustic wall or curtain)



Implementing hearing protective devices (e.g., earplugs or earmuffs)



Hello

Contact Us

EMC loss control representatives are ready to help you protect your workers from noise hazards. Contact your local independent insurance agent, EMC loss control representative or email losscontrol@emcins.com.

ⁱ National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise/, (September 2015).

ⁱⁱ National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise/noisemeter.html (September 2015).

ⁱⁱⁱ Occupational Safety & Health Administration, www.osha.gov/SLTC/noisehearingconservation/, (September 2015).

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