

# Noise Assessments

EMC is ready to offer up solutions to prevent work-related hearing loss.

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.<sup>i</sup> Noise level exposures over 85 decibels may cause hearing loss.<sup>ii</sup>

## COMMON TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT THAT CAN CAUSE HEARING LOSS INCLUDE:

- Lawn mowers—90 decibels
- Belt sanders—93 decibels
- Tractors—96 decibels
- Drills—98 decibels
- Spray painting equipment—105 decibels
- Chainsaws—110 decibels
- Ambulance sirens—120 decibels

## HIGH LEVELS OF LOUD NOISE CAN LEAD TO:<sup>iii</sup>

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



## NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS CAN ALSO:

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

## HOW EMC CAN HELP:

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

## PERFORM JOB DUTIES WITH LOWER NOISE LEVELS BY:

- Choosing quieter tools and equipment
- Implementing hearing protective devices (e.g., earplugs or earmuffs)
- Putting a barrier between the noise source and employees (e.g., an acoustic wall or curtain)
- Using sound-absorbing materials

## Contact EMC Today

EMC loss control representatives are ready to help you protect your workers from noise hazards. To set up a consultation, contact your independent insurance agent, local EMC loss control representative or email [losscontrol@emcins.com](mailto:losscontrol@emcins.com).

<sup>i</sup>National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, [www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise/), (September 2015).

<sup>ii</sup>National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, [www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise/noisemeter.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise/noisemeter.html) (September 2015).

<sup>iii</sup>Occupational Safety & Health Administration, [www.osha.gov/SLTC/noisehearingconservation/](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/noisehearingconservation/), (September 2015).

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