According to OSHA, twenty-two million workers are exposed to potentially damaging noise at work each year. U.S. businesses pay more than $1.5 million in penalties annually for not protecting workers from noise, and hearing loss directly impacts the quality of life not only for those workers but also their families. Workers who are exposed to high levels of noise can suffer permanent hearing loss and then sometimes not even surgery or a hearing aid can help. In addition, even repeated exposures to loud noise for just short periods of time can add up to permanent damage to hearing.

OSHA Standard 1926.52(b) When employees are subjected to sound levels exceeding those in Table D-2 of this section, feasible administrative or engineering controls shall be utilized. If such controls fail to reduce sound levels within the levels of the table, personal protective equipment as required in Subpart E, shall be provided and used to reduce sound levels within the levels of the table.

- When choosing hearing protection, consider the employee’s hearing needs on the job, their current hearing ability, convenience, ease of use, the work environment and the compatibility with any other PPE the worker may need to wear.
- The best hearing protection is a solution that is worn properly by the worker every single time they are exposed to loud noise on the job.
PERSONAL PROTECTION || Hearing Protection

Volume 1 Issue 55

Remember these important tips to avoid hearing loss while on the job:

• Workers who are exposed to high levels of noise can suffer permanent hearing loss. Workers must be protected from hazardous levels of noise.
• Workers must pay attention to all signs and warnings of potentially dangerous noise levels.
• OSHA regulations state that 85 decibels (dB) is the action level where workers may need to use hearing protection.
• Hearing protection must be provided for the level and/or range of noise that workers will be exposed to during their work hours.
• Never improvise hearing protection by stuffing cotton, tissue, wax or other items into your ears.
• Different types of devices may be used depending on the work environment as well as the hazardous noise.
• Proper personal protective equipment such as ear plugs or ear muffs must be maintained and worn correctly at all times.

COPYRIGHT AND DISCLAIMER

This material is the copyrighted property of Weeklysafety.com, LLC. Purchase of this material from Weeklysafety.com, LLC grants the owner the right to use this material for workplace safety and education purposes only. Use of this material for any other purpose, particularly commercial use, is prohibited. This material, including the photos, may not be resold. Weeklysafety.com, LLC does not warrant or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed in these materials. Photos shown in this presentation may depict situations that are not in compliance with applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety requirements. These materials are meant for informational purposes only and it is not the intent of Weeklysafety.com, LLC to provide compliance-based training. The intent is more to address hazard awareness in the construction and related industries, and to recognize the potential hazards present in many workplaces. These materials are intended to discuss Federal Regulations only, as individual State requirements may be more stringent. Many states operate their own state OSHA and may have standards that are different from information presented in this training. It is the responsibility of the employer and its employees to comply with all pertinent OSHA safety rules and regulations in the jurisdiction in which they work.

PHOTO ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Unless specified below, all photos are the copyrighted property of Weeklysafety.com, LLC and may not be used in any other training materials or resold for any purpose.

• (*6) Photo Credit – flickr.com public domain.
• (*7) Photo Credit – Dreamstime; dreamstime_l_37544484. Purchased by Weeklysafety.com, Standard License.

Creative Commons License: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/2.0/

For more information on this weekly safety topic, other topics that are available and the full list of FAQs please visit www.weeklysafety.com or email safety@weeklysafety.com.