

# The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

Promoting productive workplaces through safety and health research **NIOSH**

## NOISE AND HEARING LOSS PREVENTION

**NIOSH Sound Level Meter (SLM) App for iOS devices**

### Noise Research

RT @NIOSH : Summer means breaking out tools that can create loud noise: lawn mowers, leaf blows, edgers, chainsaws, etc. Noise is more than...

[Follow CDC on Twitter](#)

### Reducing Noise Exposure



Occupational regulations and standards, noise

### Preventing Hearing Loss



Hearing loss prevention programs, risk factors, and information for

### Facts and Statistics



Important facts, stats, graphs and charts, and information on

### Publications and Reports



Key NIOSH publications and reports, search by type or topic, and other

control strategies, and hearing protective devices.

specific industries and occupations.

surveillance efforts at NIOSH.

multi-media products.

**Occupational hearing loss is one of the most common work-related illnesses in the United States.** Each year, about [22 million](#) [U.S. workers](#) are exposed to hazardous noise levels at work. Over [30 million](#) [U.S. workers](#) are exposed to chemicals, some of which are harmful to the ear (ototoxic) and hazardous to hearing. In addition to damaging workers' quality of life, occupational hearing loss carries a high economic price to society.

#### NIOSH Recommendations:

- The NIOSH Recommended Exposure Limit (REL) for occupational noise exposure is [85 decibels](#), A-weighted, as an 8-hour time-weighted average (85 dBA as an 8-hr TWA) using a 3-dB exchange rate. Exposures at or above this level are considered hazardous.
- Use the NIOSH [Hierarchy of Controls](#) to reduce workplace noise to below the NIOSH REL whenever possible. Use hearing protection when hazardous noise levels cannot be adequately reduced.

#### Noise and Hearing Loss on the NIOSH Science Blog

[Read and comment on our noise and hearing loss science blogs.](#)



Safe-in-Sound Excellence in Hearing

Loss Prevention Awards. [↗](#)

#### About Us



Info about our research

#### FAQs



Answers to frequently asked questions

#### Contact Us



Contact information

#### Other Resources



List of other available resources

Page last reviewed: February 6, 2018