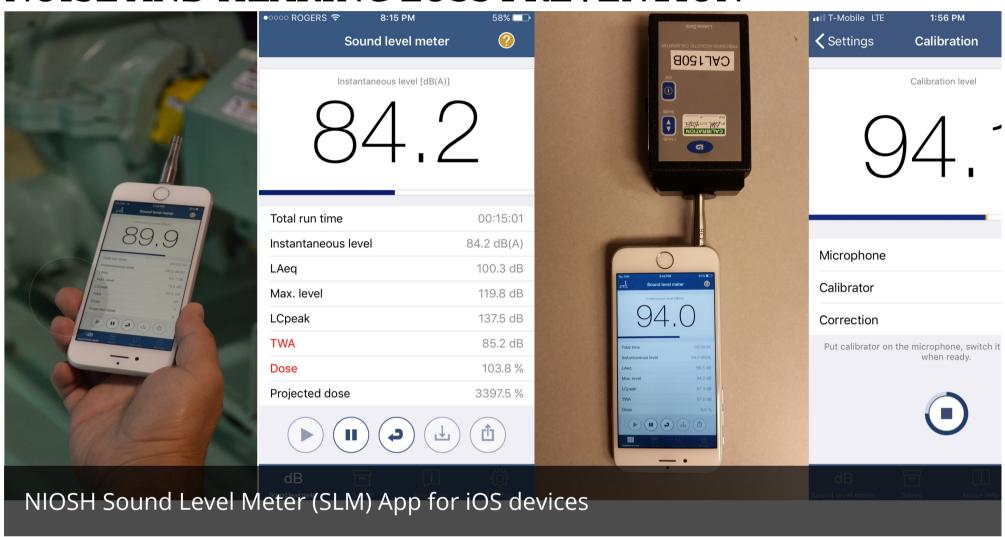


The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)



NOISE AND HEARING LOSS PREVENTION



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...

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Occupational regulations and standards, noise





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.

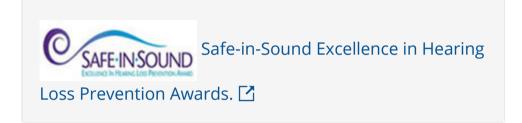
Occupational hearing loss is one of the most common work-related illnesses in the United States. Each year, about 22 million U.S. workers are exposed to hazardous noise levels at work. Over 30 million U.S. workers are exposed to chemicals, some of which are harmful to the ear (ototoxic) and hazardous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

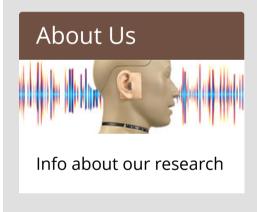
NIOSH Recommendations:

- 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.

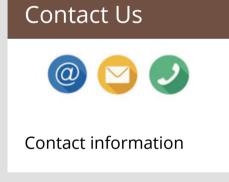
Noise and Hearing Loss on the NIOSH Science Blog

Read and comment on our noise and hearing loss science blogs.











Page last reviewed: February 6, 2018

https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise/