

Shepherd Tri-Twp Fire Department HEARING CONSERVATION

11/19/2007

I. Purpose

Prolonged exposure to noise of certain frequencies and intensities can cause varying degrees of hearing loss. This kind of hearing loss cannot be restored by medical and/or surgical treatment. However, noise-induced hearing loss can be prevented by establishment of appropriate hearing conservation standard operating procedures.

II. Objective

- A. To determine areas and/or operations where noise exceeds OSHA levels listed on table below.
- B. To ensure that proper administrative and/or engineering controls are taken, if possible, to reduce noise levels that exceed OSHA levels.
- C. Provide effective hearing protection and require its utilization by personnel while engaging in any operations and/or while in areas where the noise levels exceed the OSHA standard.

III. OSHA Requirements

- A. Protection against the effects of noise exposure is required when the sound levels exceed those shown on the following table:

Duration per day (hours)	Sound level DBA Slow Response
8	90
6	92
4	95
3	97
2	100
1 1/2	102
1	105
1/2	110
1/4	115

Exposure to sound levels above 115 DBA is not permitted for any duration. Exposure to impact noise (variations in noise level involve maxima at intervals of greater than one second) should not exceed 140 DBA peak sound pressure level.

- B. When personnel are subject to sound exceeding those listed in the above table, feasible administrative or engineering controls shall be utilized. If such controls fail to reduce sound levels within the levels of the above table, personal protective equipment shall be provided and used to reduce sound levels within the levels of the table.

IV. Scope

This standard operating procedure applies to all members of the Shepherd Tri-Twp Fire Department.

V. Responsibilities

A. Safety Officer

1. Shall identify work areas and/or operations where noise is a hazard for the purposes of categorizing or identifying types of areas or operations where the use of personnel hearing protection is appropriate.
2. Shall coordinate activities of other officers and personnel as necessary for implementation and continuing application of these standard operating procedures.
3. Shall monitor compliance with the requirements of these standard operating procedures.
4. Shall review these written hearing conservation standard operating procedures at least annually and shall make modifications as required to ensure continued compliance with these requirements and/or facilitate efficient application of these standard operating procedures.

B. Company Officers

1. Shall inform the Safety Officer of areas, operations or equipment where they suspect high noise levels to exist.
2. Shall ensure that effective hearing protection is provided, and that it is utilized by each member in areas or while engaging in operations where noise levels have been determined to be in excess of the comfort zone. In case any member refuses, or continuously neglects to use the hearing protection provided, normal disciplinary procedures are to be used.

C. Fire Fighters

1. Shall use appropriate hearing protection at all times in any area or while engaging in any operation where the noise level exceeds levels that the IC determines to be in excess and potentially dangerous.