

KSU FACILITIES SAFETY BULLETIN

Occupational Noise-OSHA

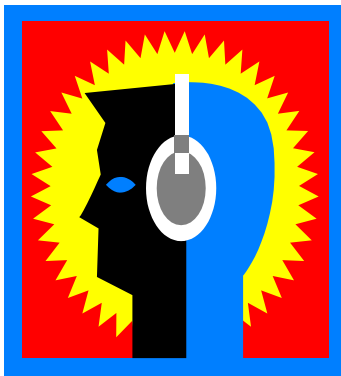


Every year, approximately 30 million people in the United States are occupationally exposed to hazardous noise. Noise-related hearing loss has been listed as one of the most prevalent occupational health concerns in the United States for more than 25 years. Thousands of workers every year suffer from preventable hearing loss due to high workplace noise levels. Since 2004, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported that nearly 125,000 workers have suffered significant, permanent hearing loss. In 2009 alone, BLS reported more than 21,000 hearing loss cases.

Exposure to high levels of noise can cause permanent hearing loss. Neither surgery nor a hearing aid can help correct this type of hearing loss. Short term exposure to loud noise can also cause a temporary change in hearing (your ears may feel stuffed up) or a ringing in your ears (tinnitus). These short-term problems may go away within a few minutes or hours after leaving the noisy area. However, repeated exposures to loud noise can lead to permanent tinnitus and/or hearing loss.

Loud noise can also create physical and psychological stress, reduce productivity,

interfere with communication and concentration, and contribute to workplace accidents and injuries by making it difficult to hear warning signals. Noise-induced hearing loss limits your ability to hear high frequency sounds, understand speech, and seriously impairs your ability to communicate. The effects of hearing loss can be profound, as hearing loss can interfere with your ability to enjoy socializing with friends, playing with your children or grandchildren, or participating in other social activities you enjoy, and can lead to psychological and social isolation.



NOISE INDUCED HEARING LOSS IS PREVENTABLE!

Over the course of the past month while on random safety walkthroughs I have noted personnel not wearing their hearing protection. Whenever you are working in an area or using equipment and you are unable to have a normal conversation because the noise is too loud, you need to be wearing hearing protection. You can purchase hearing protection from the Storeroom. There is no need for you to suffer from Noise Induced Hearing Loss it is PREVENTABLE.

June is National Safety Month

[By Lisa Linck](#)

Believe it or not, tomorrow is the first day of June, which marks the first day of National Safety Month. It is an annual observance to educate and influence behaviors around leading causes of preventable injuries and deaths.

This year's campaign, Safety Starts with Me, highlights the steps every individual can take to be a safety leader. While leadership from the top is important, creating a culture where there is a sense of ownership of safety by all makes everyone a safety leader.

"On the Journey to Safety Excellence, successful organizations engage everyone in safety and create a culture where people feel a personal responsibility not only for their own safety, but for that of their coworkers, family and friends," said Janet Froetscher, president and CEO of the National Safety Council. "While safety is important year-round, June is a great time to get everyone involved as the nation observes National Safety Month."

This year the National Safety Council has chosen to focus on employee engagement. Throughout the month of June we will provide you with links to a number of free downloadables from the council on each of the topics listed below. This year the weekly themes include:

- June 2-8: Preventing slips, trips and falls
- June 9-15: Employee wellness
- June 16-22: Emergency preparedness
- June 23-29: Ergonomics

Bonus topics: Summer safety and driving safety

Unintentional injuries and deaths in the United States are at unacceptable levels. Unintentional-injury related deaths were estimated to total 122,900 in 2011, up 1.7 percent compared to 2010. The latest estimate is 42 percent greater than the 1992 total of 86,777, the lowest annual total since 1924. The cost of unintentional injuries to Americans and their employers exceeds \$750 billion nationally, and causes great suffering among individuals and their families.

Help celebrate 100 Years of Safety this June. The National Safety Council also is spending this year celebrating [100 Years of Safety](#). As we celebrate how far safety has come, take a minute to test your [safety history knowledge](#). Find historical safety information, including an interactive timeline and make a safety pledge for 2013. Encourage coworkers to make a [safety pledge](#) as part of your National Safety Month celebration.

Founded in 1913 and chartered by Congress, [the National Safety Council](#) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to save lives by preventing injuries and deaths at work, in homes and communities, and on the road through leadership, research, education and advocacy. The council advances this mission by partnering with businesses, government agencies, elected officials and the public in areas where we can make the most impact – distracted driving, teen driving, workplace safety, prescription drug overdoses and safe communities.

Stay safe with National Safety Month.

This is an excellent article published on K-State Today May 31, 2013.