

NOISE EXPOSURE DAMAGE SCALE

Sound Energy Doubles Every 3 dB

(Example: if a 90 dB noise is doubled, it measures 93 dB)

Non-Occupational Noise				Occupational Noise					
Firecracker 162 dB		Shotgun 170 dB		Immediate Physical Damage 160dB	Handgun 166 dB		Apollo Lift-Off 188 dB		
					Rifle 161 dB		Artillery Fire 162 dB		
Bicycle Horn 143 dB		Balloon Pop 157 dB		Maximum Allowable Exposure, Even with Hearing Protection 140 dBC	Jet Engine Take-Off 150 dB		Dynamite Blast 140 dB		
		Engine Backfire 140 dB							
		Noisy Squeeze Toys 135 dB		Immediate Pain Threshold 130dB	Pneumatic Drill 130 dB		Pig Squeal 130 dB		
Thunder 120 dB		Car Racing 130 dB			Short Exposures at this level may cause hearing damage and ringing in ears 100dB	Oxygen Torch 121 dB		Hammer on Nail 120 dB	
Rock Concert 120 dB		Jet Plane at Ramp 120 dB				Generator 116 dB			
		Chainsaw 118 dB							
Stadium 117 dB		Crying Baby 110 dB		Extremely loud 100dB	Diesel Truck Accelerating 114 dB		Compactor 116 dB		
Earphones 105 dB		Motorcycle 105 dB				Impact Spanner 102 dB		Ambulance Siren 112 dB	
Underground Railway 90 dB		Power Lawnmower 94 dB		Hearing protection required for 8-hour exposures above this level 85dB	Industrial Fire Alarm 95 dB		Bulldozer 100 dB		
		Cockpit of Propeller Airplane 88 dB				Forklift 87 dB		Table Saw 93 dB	
Blender 85 dB		Smoke Alarm 85 dB		Hearing protection recommended for 8-hour exposures above this level 80dB	Lift 85 dB		Handsaw 85 dB		
		Hair Dryer 80 dB				Ringling Telephone 82 dB			
Alarm Clock 75 dB		Vacuum Cleaner 74 dB		Non-hazardous 75dB	Waste Disposal 80 dB		Lathe 81 dB		
Sewing Machine 60 dB		Dishwasher 60 dB				Large Office 50 dB		Normal Conversation 60 dB	
Microwave Oven 58 dB		Background Music 50 dB		Comfortable 50dB	Transformer 50 dB		Paper Rustling 50 dB		
Rainfall 50 dB		Flowing Stream 50 dB							
Quiet Library 40 dB		Refrigerator 43 dB		Threshold of audibility 20 dB	Quiet Office 40 dB				
Quiet Residential Area 40 dB		Audible Whisper 30 dB							
		Normal Breathing 10 dB		0 dB					