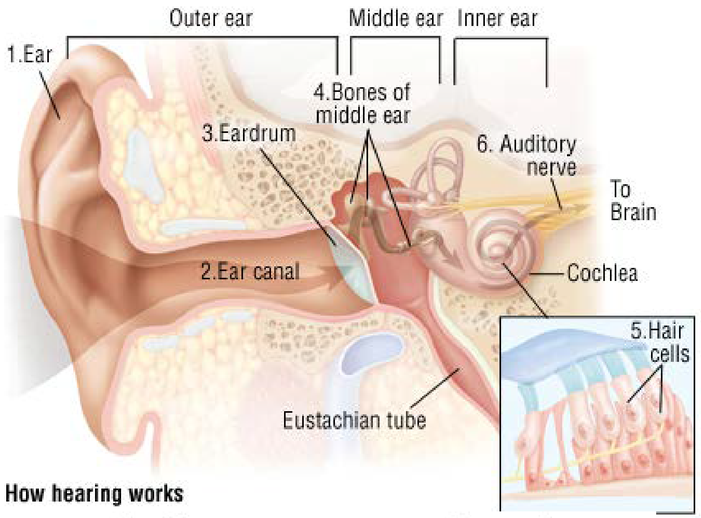
Noise Induced Hearing Loss Accountability on Jobsites within the Construction Industry

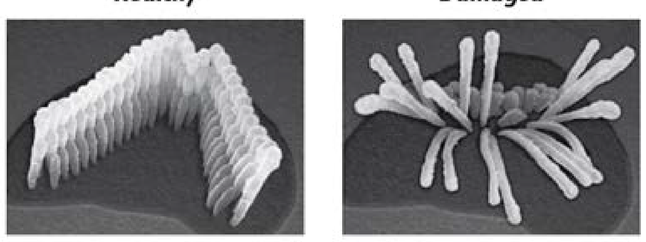
Noise induced hearing loss is a major issue on jobsites within the construction industry. Every day workers are exposed to hazardous levels of noise, but they are not being properly managed to mitigate this issue. Workers have misconceptions about the topic, but more surprisingly are sometimes indifferent to the effects; believing hearing loss is inevitable, or it can be cured with a hearing aide. Construction has inherent dangers that workers have to deal with every day. Hearing loss might not be on the top of their lists, but the effects are permanent, and they cannot be cured with a hearing aide. This paper will discuss the research on noise induced hearing loss and its consequences, how this information is being received by construction industry members, and a solution for this issue. It will be evident that construction industry members are not taking hearing protection seriously, and the solution industry members being held accountable.

Key Words: Noise Induced Hearing Loss, Accountability, Hazardous Levels of Noise, Misconceptions

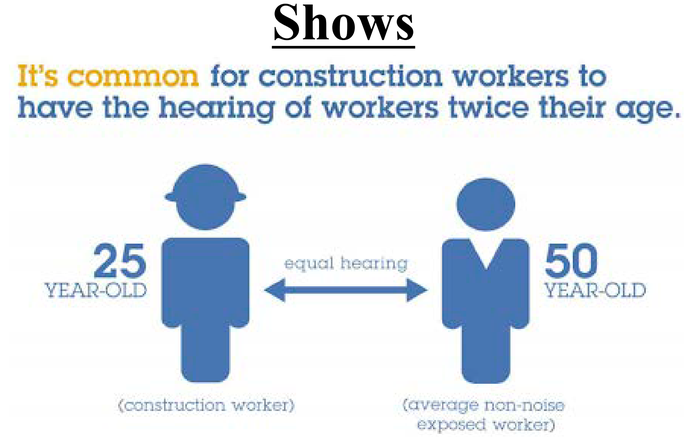
How We Hear



How hearing works

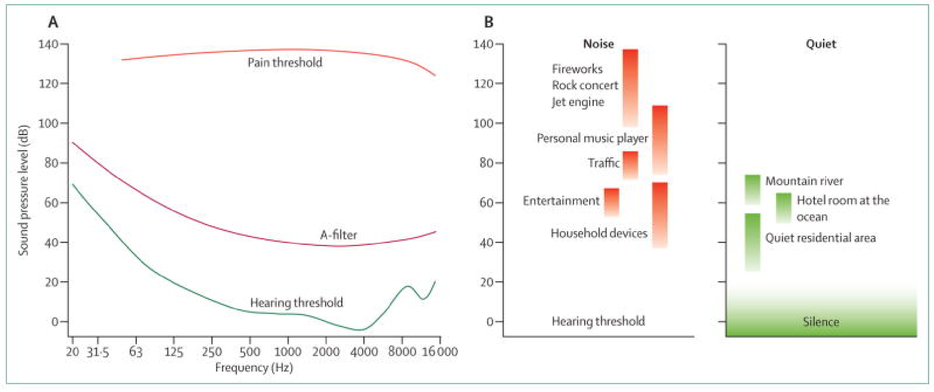


What the Research Shows



- Workers are exposed to over 85 dBA levels in 70% of work shifts
- Workers wear hearing protection less than 20% of the time when exposed to hazardous levels
- Noise induced hearing loss has rates of 50% in laborers and 30% in operating engineers
- Most common occupational disease in the US: 22 million workers annually, estimated $242 million spent on workers compensation for hearing loss disability

Decibels and Frequency



Recommended Exposure Limit

Exposure level, L (dBA)	Duration, T Hours	Minutes	Seconds	Exposure level, L (dBA)	Duration, T Hours	Minutes	Seconds
80	25	24	–	106	–	3	45
81	20	10	–	107	–	2	59
82	16	–	–	108	–	2	22
83	12	42	–	109	–	1	53
84	10	5	–	110	–	1	29
85	8	–	–	111	–	1	11
86	6	21	–	112	–	–	56
87	5	2	–	113	–	–	45
88	4	–	–	114	–	–	35
89	3	10	–	115	–	–	28
90	2	31	–	116	–	–	22
91	2	–	–	117	–	–	18
92	1	35	–	118	–	–	14
93	1	16	–	119	–	–	11
94	1	–	–	120	–	–	9
95	–	47	37	121	–	–	7
96	–	37	48	122	–	–	6
97	–	30	–	123	–	–	4
98	–	23	49	124	–	–	3
99	–	18	59	125	–	–	3
100	–	15	–	126	–	–	2
101	–	11	54	127	–	–	1
102	–	9	27	128	–	–	1
103	–	7	30	129	–	–	1
104	–	5	57	130–140	–	–	<1
105	–	4	43	–	–	–	–

When Companies are held Accountable

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