



Hearing Conservation Program

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**Hearing Conservation Program
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INTRODUCTION

The primary objective of the hearing conservation program is to protect employees from the hazards of excessive noise exposure on the job. The City of Palm Springs, under the Injury and Illness Prevention Program, has instituted a Hearing Conservation Program to ensure compliance with California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Article 105, Sections 5095-5100. The general objectives of this policy are:

- To identify noise "exposed" employees, i.e., those whose typical exposure to workplace noise equals or exceeds the action level as set by OSHA, or a level equivalent to a continuous 8-hour exposure to 85 dB(A).
- To identify and demarcate work areas in which the sound level is sufficiently high to contribute substantially to an exposure at the level described above.
- To reduce workplace exposure to noise through the use of hearing protection devices (ear plugs or ear muffs).
- To ensure that all "exposed" employees are trained in the effects of excess noise on human hearing and that each employee is informed on the correct use of hearing protection devices.

RESPONSIBILITY

The City of Palm Springs is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of its employees while they are performing City required jobs. The City will make all reasonable attempts to determine what operations may cause harmful noise levels to be generated in the work environment. When an assessment indicates potential noise levels above safe levels, the City will attempt to implement feasible engineering and/or administrative controls to reduce the exposure to a safe level. The City Attorney is responsible for administering this program.

- **Departments**
 - Notify Human Resources when new noise sources are introduced.
 - Minimize noise through use of engineering controls.
 - Offer a variety of hearing protectors.
 - Administer and maintain this program.
- **Supervisors**
 - Ensure employees where appropriate hearing protection when required.
- **Employees**
 - Attend training.
 - Wear appropriate hearing protection in the performance of assigned duties when required and minimize noise exposure outside of the work environment.

PROCEDURES

Use of Engineering Controls

Where employee noise exposure exceeds the OSHA Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) of 90 dB(A) on an eight hour time-weighted average, engineering or administrative controls will be used to reduce exposure. If such controls are not feasible, hearing protection devices (HPDs) will be provided and used to reduce exposures to below 90 dB(A).

Exposure Determination

Employees exposed to noise levels equal to or exceeding an 8-hour time weighted average of 90 dB(A) will be included in the Hearing Conservation Program. A baseline noise assessment survey was conducted by the Industrial Hygiene Division of the Riverside County Department of Public Health in January 2012. Based upon this survey, the City has determined the following job classifications in the departments indicated shall participate in the Hearing Conservation Program:

- Co-Generation Plant Maintenance Employees, and
- Lawn and Grounds Maintenance Employees.

Hearing Protection

Hearing protection will be worn:

- By all employees with noise exposures exceeding an eight hour time weighted average (TWA) of 85 dB(A).
- When employees operate equipment that produces noise exceeding 85 dB(A).
- When employees or visitors enter areas where the noise level exceeds 85 dB(A).
- Affected employee will be provided with audiometric testing.

Training

All employees in the Hearing Conservation Program will receive training annually on the following specific topics:

- Effects of noise on hearing, the purpose of hearing protection.
- Types of hearing protection.
- Selection, use, fitting and care of hearing protectors.
- Purpose and procedures for audiometric testing.
- Affected employee will be ...with audiometric testing.

All training records for City employees in the Hearing Conservation Program will be maintained by the Safety Coordinator.

APPENDIX A
TABLE N-1 PERMISSIBLE NOISE EXPOSURE ¹

Permitted Duration
Per Workday

<i>Sound Level</i>			<i>Sound Level</i>		
<u>dBA</u>	<u>Hours-Minutes</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>dBA</u>	<u>Hours-Minutes</u>	<u>Hours</u>
90	8-0	8.00	103	1-19	1.32
91	6-68	6.96	104	1-9	1.15
92	6-4	6.06	105	1-0	1.00
93	5-17	5.28	106	0-52	0.86
94	4-36	4.60	107	0-46	0.76
95	4-0	4.00	108	0-40	0.66
96	3-29	3.48	109	0-34	0.56
97	3-2	3.03	110	0-30	0.50
98	2-38	2.63	111	0-26	0.43
99	2-18	2.30	112	0-23	0.38
100	2-0	2.00	113	0-20	0.33
101	1-44	1.73	114	0-17	0.28
102	1-31	1.52	115	0-15	0.25

¹ When the daily noise exposure is composed of two or more periods of noise exposure of different levels, their combined effect should be considered, rather than the individual effect of each. Authority and reference cited, Section 142.3, Labor Code.