

## :: Hearing Conservation ::

Most of us go through life taking our senses for granted. Like touching, tasting, smelling and seeing, hearing is often something we do automatically without giving it much thought. But when something goes wrong with any of our senses, especially our hearing, we expect that medical science has a miracle to offer. Unfortunately, medicine offers only moderate improvement for people with hearing loss; hearing loss cannot be fully restored for most people.

Lots of people suffer some degree of hearing loss. Farmers, construction workers, rock musicians and people exposed to constant loud noise, whether at home or on the job, all have something in common: they are all at risk of permanent hearing loss.

You need to be aware of the types of hazardous noise that may be present in the workplace and ensure you are taking the necessary steps to protect your hearing while on the job. The attachment provided will refresh your memory regarding noise, hearing protection and hearing conservation.

**For more general information on noise, hearing protection and hearing conservation, you may wish to visit the following websites:**

<http://www.entnet.org/HealthInformation/Hearing-Loss.cfm>

<http://www.entnet.org/HealthInformation/hearingProtection.cfm>

While it is the responsibility of the employer to make sure employees are being protected against hazardous noise and the effects it can cause, you also share in this responsibility by using required hearing protection and taking time to remind coworkers to do the same.