PennState Physical Plant

Program Highlights

HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 2019

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this program is to protect employees from noise induced hearing loss. This program applies to all OPP employees who have the potential to be exposed to the action level of 85 dBA

TRAINING

All employees exposed at or above the "Action Level" shall participate in the Hearing Conservation Program. Upon entering the program, the employee shall receive a baseline audiogram and initial training. Training will include:

- The effects of noise on hearing
- The purpose of hearing protectors, advantages, disadvantages and attenuation of various types of hearing protection
- Instructions on selection, fitting, use and care of hearing protectors
- The purpose of audiometric testing, and an explanation of the results

Training shall be repeated annually along with the annual audiogram

KEY ELEMENTS

The seven basic components of the Hearing Conservation Program consist of:

- Noise exposure monitoring (Identify affected employees)
- Engineering and administrative controls (reduce noise level as much as feasible)
- Audiometric testing of employees (hearing tests for affected employees)
- Use of hearing protection devices as needed (employees subjected to sound levels at the action level or greater, who experienced a threshold shift or work with noisy equipment)
- Several different types of hearing protectors are made available to employees based on need and comfort

REFERENCE

Hearing Conservation Program

Committed to Safety Excellence