

# Protect your team's hearing

## Noise hazards and solutions

### Is your workplace too loud for comfort — or safety?

If employees need to shout to be heard, they could be exposed to hazardous noise levels above 85 decibels, putting them at risk for work-related hearing loss. From construction sites to manufacturing floors, excessive noise is a common and preventable danger.

#### Common noise culprits

Everyday tools and equipment often exceed safe noise thresholds, including:

- **Belt sanders:** 93 decibels
- **Compressed air use:** 105 decibels
- **Impact hammer drills:** 98 decibels
- **Lawn mowers:** 90 decibels
- **Spray painting equipment:** 105 decibels
- **Chainsaws:** 110 decibels
- **Ambulance sirens:** 120 decibels

#### The impact of excessive noise levels

Unchecked noise exposure can lead to:

- Permanent hearing impairment
- Difficulty hearing speech, warning signals, and high frequency sounds
- Reduced concentration, productivity, and safety on the job
- Increased physical stress and risk of workplace accidents

#### Practical steps to protect employees

You can minimize noise risks by:

- Choosing quieter tools and equipment
- Using sound barriers like acoustic walls or curtains
- Installing sound-absorbing materials
- Regularly maintaining tools, air lines, and compressors to reduce noise
- Providing hearing protection (e.g., earplugs or earmuffs)



#### How EMC supports hearing safety

EMC's loss control team can help you:

- Identify noisy areas and tasks
- Measure employee noise exposure
- Recommend noise control strategies
- Develop a hearing conservation program and identify which employees should be enrolled

#### Let's keep your team safe

Protect your employees from noise hazards with EMC's expert guidance. Contact your independent insurance agent, local EMC loss control representative, or email us at [losscontrol@emcins.com](mailto:losscontrol@emcins.com) to schedule a consultation.