

**SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT**



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES DATE APPROVED: APPROVED:	ARTICLE: II	SOP: 2116
	SECTION: 2100 SAFETY	
	SUBJECT: Hearing Conservation Program	
	06/09/2009 <i>Michael P. Murray</i>	

Purpose: To establish the guidelines for the use of hearing protection and hearing testing for the Scotts Valley Fire Protection District.

Scope: It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Scotts Valley Fire Protection District, when exposed to high levels of noise at or above 85 decibels, to utilize hearing protection that is provided by the district. Each member shall become familiar with and refresh themselves as necessary with proper use of hearing protection.

Procedure:

All personnel shall utilize hearing protection whenever employee noise exposures equal or exceed an 8-hour time-weighted average sound level of 85 decibels.

Protection against the effects of noise exposure shall be provided when the sound levels exceed those outlined in table 1. When employees are subject to noise exposures within the levels of table 1, appropriate hearing protection shall be worn to reduce noise exposures. Hearing protection shall be provided for vehicles and apparatus in the form of intercom system/ear protectors, or other means to provide hearing protection while riding on the apparatus. Foam ear plugs and ear muffs shall also be provided for hearing protection when employees are operating or working in, areas that power equipment is being used and or maintenance is being performed.

NOISE EXPOSURE LIMITS – TABLE 1

Sound Level Decibels	Permissible Exposure (hours)
80	16
85	8
90	4
95	2
100	1
105	0.5

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Examples of Noise Levels:

140 dB	Jet airplane taking off at 50 feet
115 dB	Brush chipper
110 dB	Chainsaw
100 dB	Diesel truck
85 dB	Freeway noise
80 dB	Riding in vehicle, window down
50 dB	Business office, typical home

Audiometric Testing:

Employees will be evaluated and tested annually as outlined per SOP 1111 (Employee Physical Examination).

A Certified Hearing Conservationist must perform audiometric testing. (Audiometric Technician) The results of employee audiometric testing must be maintained in the employee's medical file with the Districts physician. The testing provider shall make each employee aware of his audiometric test results in writing.

Record Keeping:

All records shall be maintained in the employee's medical file and shall include the following:

1. Employee name and identification number.
2. Date the audiogram was performed.
3. Employee's job assignment and work location.
4. Equipment records.
5. Records shall be retained for the duration of the affected employee's employment.

Training:

Initial and annual refresher training shall be conducted to include the following:

1. Effects of noise on the ear and hearing.
2. Information on hearing protection equipment design, selection and care.
3. Information on audiometric testing results if someone suffers a Hearing Shift.
4. Introduction of new equipment