

For Your Safety: Hear for a Lifetime

Most people never appreciate their hearing until they start to lose it. Hearing loss is irreversible and by the time you recognize the symptoms of hearing loss it is often already too late. To protect yourself, you should watch out for two kinds of hearing hazards:

Very Loud Noises can do damage very quickly even if you are exposed for a very short time. Noises such as gunfire, jet engines and sirens traumatize parts of the ear. A safe distance should be kept and hearing protection should always be worn.

Moderately Loud Noises over a long period of time can also cause permanent damage. This is one of the most common causes of hearing loss because people get accustomed to the noise and don't realize the damage they are causing. Listening to loud music, for instance, or using industrial equipment and power tools for an extended time without protection can cause hearing loss. Here's a rule of thumb: If a work area is noisy enough that you have to shout to be heard, it's probably loud enough to require hearing protection.

What you can do to prevent hearing loss

- Wear hearing protection at work where it is required.
- Give your ears a break by avoiding loud music or television after work.
- Use hearing protection when working around the house with lawn mowers and leaf blowers.
- Protect your ears if your hobbies create loud noise such as shooting or car racing.
- Get your hearing checked regularly.

For Your Information: ISRI National Safety Committee Meeting May 4-5, 2006

The next meeting of the ISRI National Safety Committee will convene on May 4-5, 2006, at the Wyndham O'Hare in Chicago. The INSC provides an off-the-record forum in which hazards and injuries can be discussed openly and honestly in pursuit of meaningful solutions. Our common goal is to make the scrap industry safer.

To attend the National Safety Committee meeting, please go to our website www.isri.org and register online or print out the registration form and return it with credit card information, by fax, to 202/626-0911. If you prefer to pay by check, please send it to ISRI, 1325 G St., NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005. The fee for attending the conference is \$98 per person, payable only in advance (there will be no registration at the door). We have reserved a block of rooms at the rate of \$139 per night. Please make your room reservations directly with the Wyndham O'Hare by calling 800/996-3426.

This e-mail was produced by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. For more information, visit us on the Web at www.ISRI.org
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April 11, 2006