

## HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM PRESENTATION - INSTRUCTOR NOTES

The following provides a useful preparation outline for use by trainers presenting the Hearing Conservation Program training presentation to employees.

### Training Objectives

Train the student regarding the insidious nature of hearing loss and the need to take responsibility for wearing hearing protection properly and when required

### Before Training

- Read the OSHA standard and the model Hearing Conservation program
- Understand the following:
  - That this program is written to require the use of hearing protection at exposures at or above 85 dBA. This is done because current research indicates that a significant number of people suffer permanent hearing loss between 85 dB and 90 dB, where OSHA mandates hearing protection. This is an industry best practice and could help protect your facility against workers' compensation litigation.
  - This procedure encourages you to keep exposure monitoring and audiometric test data as permanent records. Again, this is not required by OSHA, but could help defend you in worker's comp litigation.
- Complete the blank sections in the written program:
  - Hearing Conservation Program—list areas in your facility that are included in the Hearing Conservation Program.
  - Training Program and Access to Information—OSHA requires you to post a copy of the 29 CFR 1910.95 in your facility. Choose a location (lunch/break room, outside a supervisor's office, bulletin board, etc.) and note this location in the written program.
- Bring samples of hearing protection to the training and arrange to fit students for their PPE and demonstrate proper use and discuss replacement, care and storage of this PPE.
- Many facilities install signs in areas where hearing protection is required. While not required by OSHA, this is an excellent practice.

### Introduction for Training

- Begin by stressing the overall importance of safety in your facility
- Review areas included in the Hearing Conservation Program
- The following list can help you explain the concept of how loud 85 dBA is:
  - Normal conversation/office: 60 decibels
  - Busy traffic: 75 decibels
  - Woodshop noise: 100 decibels

- Chainsaw: 110 decibels
- Review the fact that noise exposure occurs outside of work too, and can be just as damaging to the student's hearing. Noise exposure can include: working with electric tools and small engines, auto repair, shooting, loud music exposure, etc. Hearing protection should be worn at home and at work to be effective,
- As a ground breaker, you can ask employees if they have ever used hearing protection (plugs, muffs) in past jobs or as part of hobbies

### **General Guidelines**

- Stress the importance of the bullet points on these slides
- Stress the importance of the individual employee being committed to his/her own safety and to wearing hearing protection at all times required
- Be sure to be open to questions or comments

### **Training Notes**

- Review the location(s) of PPE and clean-up and sanitation equipment use for bloodborne pathogen response
- Review and demonstrate cleaning and sanitation procedure with students
- Review any chemical handling safety issues associated with the sanitizing solution(s) used in your facility
- Discuss the points listed on the slide

### **Conclusion**

- Review the important points listed on the "Conclusion" slide

### **Student Exercise**

At the conclusion of the training, the following will demonstrate the employee's understanding of the topic:

- Ask the employee to identify areas in your facility that are in the Hearing Conservation Program.
- Ask the employee to explain key points of the procedure.
- Ask the student to demonstrate how to use the hearing protection in your presence.