

Hearing Safety

Hearing loss begins with sounds above 85 dB. The maximum safe time you can work without hearing protection at this level is 8 hours and for every 3 dB increase, that time cuts in half. At 100 dB, maximum safe exposure time is just 15 minutes. Many types of motorized equipment and tools are louder than 100 dB, so it is important that hearing protection be used by municipal workers anytime they are exposed to high sound levels.

Push Mowers / ATV **90 dB**

**Air Compressor / Shop Vac / Bench
Grinder** **95 dB**

**Riding Mower / Pressure washer /
Weed Eater** **100 dB**

Tractor (no cab) **105 dB**

Leaf Blower / Impact Wrench **110 dB**

Chain Saw / Hammer Drill **115 dB**

Note: These are approximate, noise levels can vary by type and equipment manufacturer

Remember that hearing loss is **cumulative and irreversible**. You might not notice the loss from one, two, or even dozens of exposures, but each exposure adds to hearing loss. Loud noise exposures now can contribute to hearing loss decades from now. **Protect your future self by protecting your hearing now.**

