

## Noise Hazards

The hazards associated with noise the workplace may include a number of the following:

- Large open-plan spaces
- Noisy work equipment (machines, printers, vehicles)
- Traffic
- Sudden loud noises
- Constant background noises

Whether an employee is at risk of harm from noise in the workplace also depends greatly on the amount of time they spend working in a noisy environment each day.

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The effects of noise hazards on a person's hearing may be temporary or permanent:

### Temporary:

Temporary deafness may be experienced after:

- spending a day working in a noisy environment
- being exposed sudden loud noises

Employees may also suffer from tinnitus (ringing or buzzing sensations) as a result of working in a noisy environment.

### Permanent:

Permanent damage to a person's hearing may be caused by long-term exposure to noise at work. Hearing loss can be very gradual, but by the time it becomes apparent it can be too late to do anything about it.

**Noise-induced hearing loss has no cure; do not put yourself at risk!**

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Noise hazards can cause non-hearing related harm to a person in the form of

- cardiovascular problems
- stress
- lack of concentration
- fatigue
- poor sleep patterns

**Serious accidents and incidents can occur as a result of working in a noisy workplace. Employees may not hear warnings, signals, alarms, etc. as a result of workplace noise.**