

## *Protect Your Hearing*

Protect your hearing! Traffic is noisy and the equipment we use is loud. Prolonged exposure to loud equipment and loud work environments can result in hearing loss.

Sound is measured in decibels and the safe range is between a whisper at 30dB and a dishwasher at 75dB. Hearing protection is recommended above 85 decibels.

Decibel levels of selected PK equipment and a freeway was measured and recorded. The measurements were taken to make us aware of the range of decibel levels present in the work environment. The readings are listed in the table to the right.

The noise generated on a concrete freeway, with average traffic volume, was found to have a decibel range between 87 and 100dB. While a longline blower truck using compressed air is a very high 116 decibels and an idling diesel support truck was measured at 79dB. Be aware of the noise in your surroundings and wear hearing protection when around equipment or loud tools.

dB	Equipment / Environment
116	F550 Blower Truck Blowing,+ Twister Compressor
108	980 3 Box, Grinding with 2 Boxes
100	980 3 Box Grinder engine + Utility engine running
96	Lawn Mower
88	F550 Diesel Engine Idle + Twister compressor idle
87-101	Freeway traffic-Concrete surface
79	F550 Support-Diesel engine idle
60-70	Speaking Voice

Ear plugs are available at all PK divisions and in the glove box of every truck.

To learn more about the science of hearing protection visit the 3M Center for Hearing Conservation [HERE](#)



Questions about Tool Talk Topics or other safety items? Contact Kurt Shea at 269-207-2055 or by email at [kurt@pkcontracting.com](mailto:kurt@pkcontracting.com)