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ULTRASOUND EXPOSURE

The term “ultrasound” refers to sound waves with frequencies that are higher than the audible limit of human hearing. By definition, then, any sounds exceeding this limit (generally, greater than 20 kilohertz) cannot be heard by humans. Thus, the general public remains unaware that it is being exposed to ultrasound and very high frequency (VHF) sound that may place their health at risk. It has been reported that people exposed to high frequencies from drills, industrial cleaning devices, and other apparatuses in the workplace have experienced ringing in the ears, headaches, dizziness, nausea, and other symptoms. While these cases may be covered by health guidelines, there are also ultrasound devices in public places (door sensors, etc.) that pose similar risks.

TIP OF THE WEEK

If you are concerned about exposing the ears to noise and causing permanent hearing loss, use hearing protection. Your ears will thank you.

P.S. While the public is constantly being alerted about protecting their ears from audible noise, future warnings may extend to alerts about inaudible noise that can also cause noise-induced hearing loss.

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