

United State Department Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Oregon State Office

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To: DSDs, Staff and Branch Chiefs

From: Associate Deputy State Director for Management Services

Subject: Oregon/Washington Hearing Conservation Program Annual Compliance Requirements DD: October 1, 2004

The Oregon/Washington Hearing Conservation Program establishes requirements and procedures that will eliminate, or significantly minimize, the risk to employees of suffering hearing impairment from exposure to excessive levels of noise in the work environment.

This program applies to the work activities of all Oregon State Office employees and volunteers, whether in the office or the field, where excessive noise exposure may result. Supervisors and/or project leaders are responsible to identify those employees who may be exposed to excessive noise levels during the work day(s). Each employee identified should receive a hearing evaluation in accordance with the monitoring and testing requirements specified in Sections 16.4.5 & 6 of the Hearing Conservation plan. Audiometric testing is available through the Federal Occupational Health (FOH) Service.

Any employee identified as being exposed to excessive noise during the course of their workday must be scheduled for a baseline audiogram, if not previously accomplished; and, annual retesting. Please note that an exit audiogram test is required upon termination of employment.

Employee testing is scheduled prior to October 1 each year. Requests to schedule such testing are coordinated through the Safety Office.

Individual supervisors are directly responsible for the safety and health of their employees and play an important role in ensuring that each employee receives appropriate safety training. To assist supervisors in providing information to employees regarding the causes and prevention of hearing loss, a PowerPoint presentation is available on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Intranet Safety Web Page at the following address:

<http://web.or.blm.gov/safety/training/training.htm>. This site also contains additional information from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regarding the prevention of hearing loss.

For questions and employee scheduling, please contact Peggy Tribble, State Office Safety and Health Program Manager at 503-808-6202.

Districts with Unions are reminded to notify their unions of this Information Bulletin and satisfy any bargaining obligations before implementation. Your servicing Human Resources Office or Labor Relations Specialist can provide

you assistance in this matter.

Signed by
John K. Keith
Associate Deputy State Director
For Management Services

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Distribution

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