



SAN DIEGO
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT

San Diego Community College OSHA Standards

Hearing Conservation Program REV 5 – 11/19/2015

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to protect the hearing of personnel working in areas where noise levels exceed the Cal/OSHA action level of 85 decibels A-weighted. The objective of the San Diego Community College District is to prevent noise-induced hearing loss resulting from on-site, occupational exposure.

AUTHORITY CITATIONS

CCR, Title 8, § [5095](#), [5096](#), [5097](#), [5098](#), [5099](#), [5100](#)
CFR, Title 29, § [1910.95](#)

DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Risk Management Office

The Risk Management Office is responsible for the implementation and maintenance of this programs as described above including the following.

- Monitor work areas to obtain representative exposure of employees to excessive noise levels and establish areas where hearing protection is required.
- Notify supervisor and employees working in areas where noise levels exceed the Cal/OSHA action level of 85 dBA.
- Coordinate training for employees enrolled in the hearing [conservation program](#).
- Notify Sharp Rees-Stealy Occupational Medical Center of employees requiring annual medical audiogram.
- Assist facilities in the evaluation of engineering controls to reduce noise from equipment or processes.
- Maintain records of all noise monitoring performed in the workplace.

Facilities Management

The Facilities Management department is responsible for the implementation and maintenance of these programs as described above including the following.

- Obtain sound level information for new tools and equipment before procurement. Whenever possible, equipment should not generate noise levels exceeding 85 dBA.
- Install and maintain noise control equipment in consultation with the Health and Safety Coordinator.
- When requested by the Risk Management office, post and maintain signs identifying areas where hearing protection is required.
- Provide hearing protectors to employees when administrative and engineering controls fail to reduce sound levels to below 85 dBA.

Supervisors

Supervisors are responsible for the implementation and maintenance of these programs as described above including the following.

- Notify the Safety Officer of operations where employees may be exposed to excessive noise levels.
- Ensure that all employees working in areas where hearing protection is required wear the protection and participate in the hearing conservation program.
- Ensure that visitors entering mandatory hearing protection required areas wear hearing protection.

- Inform Sharp Rees-Stealy Occupational Medical Center when an employee is terminating employment to schedule a final audiogram.

Sharp Rees-Stealy Occupational Medical Center

The health centers respective to their campus will provide the following.

- Provide baseline and annual audiometric exams.
- Provide training in the proper fitting of hearing protectors.
- Evaluate results of audiometric exams.
- Notify employee, in writing, within 21 days of the determination of a standard threshold shift (significant hearing loss) in their audiogram.
- Maintain medical records for duration of employment and post-employment.

NOISE EXPOSURE

Monitoring

An initial survey will be conducted by Facilities Management when areas of ≥ 85 dBA over 8 hours are suspected using the following criteria.

- The monitoring requirement shall be met by either area monitoring or personal monitoring that is representative of the employee's exposure.
- The sampling strategy shall be designed to identify employees for inclusion in the hearing conservation program and to enable the proper selection of hearing protectors.
- Where circumstances such as high worker mobility, significant variations in sound level, or a significant component of impulse noise make area monitoring generally inappropriate, the employer shall use representative personal sampling to comply with the monitoring requirements of this section unless the employer can show that area sampling produces equivalent results.
- Instruments used to measure employee noise exposure (i.e. Dosimeter or Sound Level Meter) shall be calibrated to ensure measurement accuracy.
- Monitoring shall be repeated whenever a change in production, process, equipment or controls increases noise exposures to the extent that additional employees may be exposed at or above the action level or the attenuation provided by hearing protectors being used by employees may be rendered inadequate to meet the requirements of [Section 5098](#).
- The employer shall provide affected employees or their representatives with an opportunity to observe any measurements of employee noise exposure.
- The employer shall notify each employee exposed at or above the action level of the results of the monitoring.

Audiometric Testing

Employees working in areas with ≥ 85 dBA shall complete baseline, annual, and post-employment audiometric tests.

- **Baseline:** New employees will undergo baseline testing within 6 months of employment to establish a threshold to compare with future audiograms. The baseline test will be taken by at least 14 hours without any exposure to work noise.
- **Annual:** An audiogram will be taken annually and compared with the baseline to observe deviations. Corrective action will be taken if an audiogram exhibits deficiencies in hearing.
- **Post-Employment:** Post-employees must complete an audiogram when the employee leaves the job

workplace that has exposure levels ≥ 85 dBA. A post–employment audiogram helps measure the efficacy of the provided hearing protection and provides the employee with current hearing tests.

Protection and Controls

Hearing protection shall be provided to all employees that are exposed at or above 85 dBA action level. Hearing protection must be replaced when broken, defective, or unsanitary. Some types of hearing protection include aural inserts (fit directly into the ear canal), muffs (plastic domes that cover the ears), and canal caps (sound attenuators via sealed external openings to the ear canal).

Engineering controls and noise–control strategies may assist in noise reduction. Some effective methods for controlling noise include the following.

- Using quieter equipment
- Maintaining equipment to reduce noise
- Erect total or partial barriers
- Limit employees scheduled work time in noisy areas
- Limit noisy operations/activities in a work shift
- Rotating employees on different tasks in a noisy area

PERMISSIBLE LEVELS

The following table illustrates the [exposure limits](#) set by Cal/OSHA for occupational noise.

Sound Pressure Level (dBA)	Duration Time (hours)	Sound Pressure Level (dBA)	Duration Time (hours)	Sound Pressure (Level (dBA)	Duration Time (hours)
85	16.0	96	3.48	107	0.76
86	13.9	97	3.03	108	0.66
87	12.1	98	2.63	109	0.56
88	10.6	99	2.30	110	0.50
89	9.20	100	2.00	111	0.43
90	8.00	101	1.73	112	0.38
91	69.6	102	1.52	113	0.33
92	6.06	103	1.32	114	0.28
93	5.28	104	1.15	115	0.25
94	4.60	105	1.00		
95	4.00	106	0.86		

TRAINING AND RECORDKEEPING

Training

Employees who are work in environments relating to elevated levels of noise exposure (≥ 85 dBA) will receive training and education of hearing conservation and hazards. The training shall occur annually and include the following topics.

- Effects of noise on hearing
- Purpose of hearing protectors

- Types of hearing loss
- Attenuation of hearing protectors
- Instructions on how to select, use, and maintain hearing protection
- Purpose of audiometric testing

* The Hearing Loss Prevention training can be found in the Environmental section of the [Keenan SafeColleges website](#).

Recordkeeping

Audiometric test records shall include the following items.

- Name and job classification of employee
- Date of audiometric test
- Examiner's name
- Date of last calibration of audiometer
- Employees recent noise exposure assessment

All records of employee noise exposure which include the results of audiograms, assessment, and training will be documented by the respective maintenance and operations department and Risk Management office.

Audiograms for employees will be retained for the duration of employment, and noise-exposure assessment records will be retained for 2 years.

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

Action Level: an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels measured on the A-scale, slow response, or a dose of 50%

Audiogram: a chart, graph, or table resulting from an audiometric test showing an individual's hearing threshold levels as a function of frequency.

Decibel: unit of measurement of sound level

DbA (Decibels-A-Weighted): a unit of measurement of sound level corrected to the A-weighted scale.

Representative exposure: measurements of an employee's noise dose or 8-hour time-weighted average sound level that is representative of exposures of other employees in the workplace.

APPENDIX B: CURRENT MEDICAL CONTRACTOR

Sharp Rees-Stealy Occupational Health Services Facility

Inform the receptionist if you have had an exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials and need an appointment immediately.

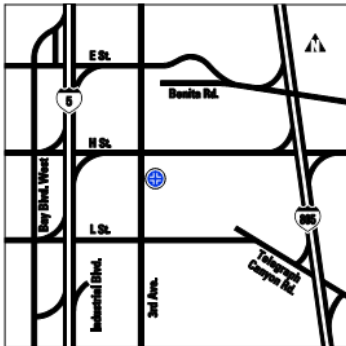
Work-Related Injury Treatment Authorization

For treatment authorization and worker's compensation referrals, contact the Risk Management office at 619-388-6953.

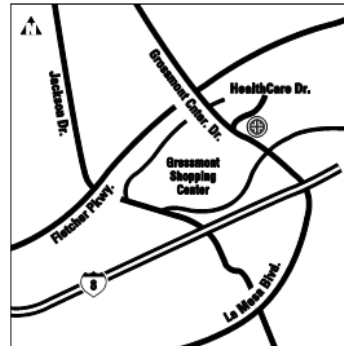
In the event of a

WORK-RELATED INJURY or ILLNESS

**Send Employee to the Nearest
Sharp Rees-Stealy Occupational Health Services Facility:**



CHULA VISTA
525 Third Ave.
Chula Vista, CA 91910
(619) 585-4050
Occupational Health Services
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon. to Fri.
Urgent Care Center
8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily



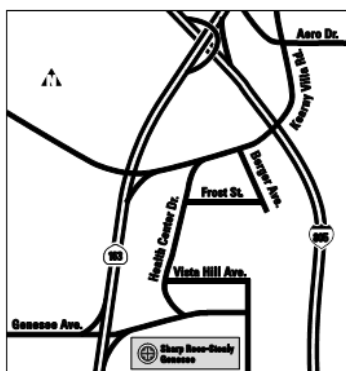
LA MESA
Grossmont Medical Plaza,
Ste. 601
5525 Grossmont Center Dr.
La Mesa, CA 91942
(619) 644-6600
Occupational Health Services
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon. to Fri.
Urgent Care Center
8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily



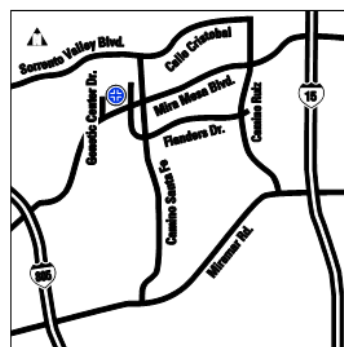
DOWNTOWN
300 Fir St.
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 446-1524
Occupational Health Services
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon. to Fri.
Urgent Care Center
8 a.m. to 10 p.m., daily (except
certain holidays)



RANCHO BERNARDO
16950 Via Tazon
San Diego, CA 92127
(858) 521-2350
Occupational Health Services
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon. to Fri.
Urgent Care Center
8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily



GENESE
2020 Genesee Ave.
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 616-8400
Occupational Health Services
7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon. to Fri.
Urgent Care Center
No urgent care at this location



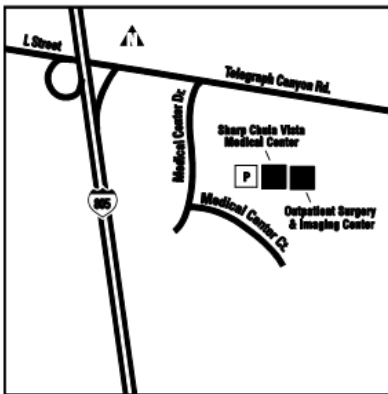
SORRENTO MESA
10243 Genetic Center Dr.
San Diego, CA 92121
(858) 526-6150
Occupational Health Services
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon. to Fri.
Urgent Care Center
8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily



AFTER-HOURS CARE

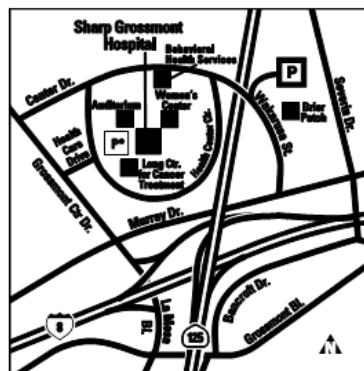
For a WORK-RELATED INJURY or ILLNESS

**Send Employee to the Nearest
Sharp Hospital Emergency Department**



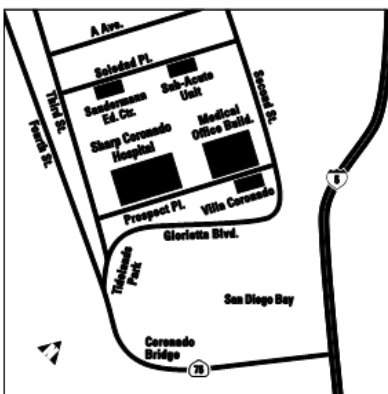
Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center

751 Medical Center Ct.
Chula Vista, CA 91911
(619) 502-5800



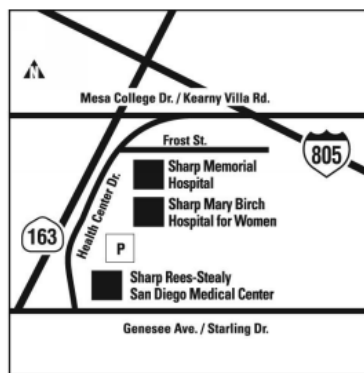
Sharp Grossmont Hospital

5555 Grossmont Center Dr.
La Mesa, CA 91942
(619) 740-6000



Sharp Coronado Hospital

250 Prospect Pl.
Coronado, CA 92118
(619) 522-3600



Sharp Memorial Hospital

7901 Frost St.
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 939-3400



APPENDIX C: SAFETY PROGRAM APPROVAL

San Diego City College Safety Program

Hearing Conservation Program – 11/10/2015

Reviewed by: _____
Risk Manager

Date: _____

Approved by: _____
City College Vice President, Administrative Services

Date: _____

Approved by: _____
City College President

Date: _____

San Diego Mesa College Safety Program

Hearing Conservation Program – 11/10/2015

Reviewed by: _____
Risk Manager

Date: _____

Approved by: _____
Mesa College Vice President, Administrative Services

Date: _____

Approved by: _____
Mesa College President

Date: _____

San Diego Miramar College Safety Program

Hearing Conservation Program – 11/10/2015

Reviewed by: _____
Risk Manager

Date: _____

Approved by: _____
Miramar College Vice President, Administrative Services

Date: _____

Approved by: _____
Miramar College President

Date: _____

San Diego Continuing Education Safety Program

Hearing Conservation Program – 11/10/2015

Reviewed by: _____
Risk Manager

Date: _____

Approved by: _____
Continuing Education Vice President, Administrative Services

Date: _____

Approved by: _____
Continuing Education President

Date: _____

District Service Center Safety Program

Hearing Conservation Program – 11/10/2015

Reviewed by: _____
Risk Manager

Date: _____

Approved by: _____
Director, Facilities Services

Date: _____

Approved by: _____
Vice Chancellor, Facilities Management

Date: _____