



Spring 2018 Client Newsletter

Vol. 12, No. 1

Thank you to our caring customers! Goodwill and Happy New Year to all!

The eye of the peacock feather

You know I tend to write about animals when I'm trying to get you to escape in my newsletter for a few minutes. This one's no different, but I have to say this story was motivated by a visit to Jen Ricard's office, my co-worker of 19 years. Jen is our data processing Director. She was wearing a vibrant and colorful shirt covered with a peacock design. As she lifted her peacock designed coffee mug to drink, I couldn't help noticing her bird earrings and several more related gadgets in her office. She explained to me the **eye of their feather** has all kinds of connotations like



guidance, protection, and watchfulness to name a few, that can be found in our jobs as safety people. Taking care of your employees' wellness. But it reminded me of a kind of funny peacock story that happened to me.

So, one day, I worked for an older guy named Hal on a large riding farm. He borrowed my horse trailer to make a special trip to PA to surprise his wife picking up a pair of young peacock chicks. For days there always seemed to be a small crowd gathered at the bird cage to admire them. One day as I watched from a far, a young girl lifted the baby bird and put it up to my Jack Russell's nose. I yelled something to the effect that was not a good idea but inevitably, it didn't take long before my dog (Odie), had the bird in his mouth and it perished. Hal took one look at me and my dog, with the feathers still stuck on his nose, and muttered to just get the bird another peacock partner and make sure it's a

female.

Thus, began my across -New- England -trek to find a peacock chick, young enough and small enough to grow with the other baby, but a girl. I soon discovered there's no easy way to tell their gender until they're a bit older, never mind finding a salesperson who might know. So, I started at a pet shop for suggestions. I went to a farm with lots of them all in an enormous cage outdoors,

but no females. Another stop had one female, that the some-what odd owner eagerly wanted to sell me, but only if I take “that one over there with it”. I followed his finger to see a blind peacock that looked like it weighed 100 pounds! Turns out, you can’t keep a group of male peacocks around a female as they will fight it out to great harm like the embattled blinded peacock. I told him no thank you. I endured several more viewings at various places and eventually found a real breeder and a baby chick replacement. My office visit ended with Jen showing me her tattoo of a peacock which I just can’t show you in this forum..... but if you ever need help with a data processing question or a specific employee’s history, Jen can help you!

Well, we can’t have eyes everywhere to do all that protecting in your line of work as a safety officer. That’s why we must reach each person on an individualized basis to appeal to their natures to incorporate safer behavior and working habits. We do offer a new service of **hearing protection fit-testing, which** is a one-on-one measurement with a technician. This will illustrate the effectiveness of how they’re wearing the plugs, and exactly how much sound energy they are successfully blocking (or not), most often not inserted correctly. Employees can be shown improvements on how to achieve better results and wear them more effectively. Read the next article to help you review, making sure you have all the necessary elements of your program in place. We’re always available on email and phone with Julia answering phones for us!

-the Editor, Andi



Are you getting all you can out of our service?

Spring is around the corner, which is always a season for fresh ideas. Here are some of our services we provide that are often overlooked.

- **For example, did you post the poster we insert in the report with the applicable regulation on it?** *That's a requirement.*
- **Have you distributed all letters from our report to the individuals?** *This is also a requirement for all shift candidates, but we recommend to all.*
- **Did you log any recordable losses from specified section in our report?** *These people are listed by name with very clear and precise instructions.*
- **Would you like to receive your report electronically?** *Reference jen@industrialhearing.com to request this. choice is email or thumb drive.*
- **Are you confused about anything in your report?** *We offer a tele-conference to review it with your questions that is included in our basic service. Call the office to make an appointment with Helene. 508-832-8484*

- **Do you need additional educational resources for any employee?** *We have an online seminar [CLICK HERE](#) provided to a group of DPW exposure damage, how it to raise awareness and protection with proper hearing*



available on our website that we workers. It explains noise occurs, and steps on can take improve behaviors of self-protection. Or check out

<https://knowyournoise.nal.gov.au/noise-risk-calculator> an Australian site or click on picture to left for more info about Safe & Sound week.

- **Do you offer proper hearing protection along with several choices?** *This should include different types, sizes, and attenuation (NRR) ratings depending on noise exposure measurements, corded or un-corded, metal detectable, etc.*
- **Do you have a noise measurement on file?** *This is part of the requirement that you have documented employees' noise exposures, suggested every 2 years, or change of position. We can also provide this additional service with 10 dosimeters. That's the kind of data you also need to select the proper hearing protection NRR.*
- **Do you need additional educational resources for any employee?** *We did an online seminar for an insurance group that was geared toward DPW and facilities personnel in municipalities, explaining noise exposure damage and the law's requirements. This is available on our website.*

What is hearing protection fit-testing? Would it help your program?



Fit-testing of hearing protection, though not yet required, is a growing trend in which managers find it to be a fresh approach. We measure the noise getting past the hearing protection, evaluate the exposure, then re-train them on proper use and fit. We re-measure the noise after training, and always show rather dramatic improvement in their result. This is all happening on a computer screen in front of them as well, providing visual documentation to them, increasing their acceptance of the information. We can also provide copies for their employee file. Please call or email andi@industrialhearing.com for more information.

Safety Conference Spotlight

Safety Conference Spotlight-Come join your peers at a conference near you! More detail on our website! [Click here](#)

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[http:// www.hearingconservation.org/](http://www.hearingconservation.org/)

<http://www.vpppa.org/education/regional-conferences>

<https://www.cbia.com/>

<https://ehs.umass.edu/2018-osh-safety-summit>

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