

# Communication and Job Performance in Noise: A Review

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In this monograph, the subject of noise and job performance is divided into four categories, each one presented as a separate chapter: (1) the effects of noise on the perception of speech and warning signals, (2) the effects of hearing loss on the perception of speech and warning signals, (3) the effects of hearing protectors on the perception of speech and warning signals and (4) the effects of noise on task performance. This monograph summarizes the abundant laboratory evidence and the limited information from field studies that illuminate these issues. Chapter 1 covers speech levels, transmission characteristics, talker and listener variables, prediction methods and acceptability criteria. Chapter 2 summarizes the effects of hearing loss on speech recognition and predicting communication as a function of hearing impairment. Chapter 3 gives detailed consideration of how hearing protectors affect speech communication and the ability to hear warning signals. Chapter 4 provides confirmation for a variety of aversive effects of noise on task performance which are not as easily discerned or predicted as are other noise effects, such as those on hearing and speech communication.

In Chapter 5, conclusions are presented, and recommendations for future research in each of the areas covered in Chapters 1-4 are given. An appendix covers U.S. military performance criteria, and information on impaired hearing in the military.

An extensive bibliography which covers all of the four areas has also been included.

This monograph is intended to be helpful to psychologists, managers concerned with efficiency and productivity, as well as consultants in acoustics, audiology, and industrial hygiene.