

The Handbook of Hearing and the Effects of Noise

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The subtitle of this book, Physiology, Psychology, and Public Health, is a good 5-word description of the contents of this book. The text begins with a 15-page summary of noise definitions and measurement techniques. This chapter is followed by a review of the structures and functions of the ear and a summary of auditory sensations and perceptions. The latter includes several properties of noise which affect sensations and perceptions. These include spectral and temporal factors, tonal characteristics, impulsive noise, and background noise.

Hearing loss from industrial noise and other topics relating to hearing loss is then covered, and this information is followed by a chapter on the prediction of hearing loss, both temporary threshold shift and permanent threshold shift.

The emphasis then changes to those factors which affect speech intelligibility. The next chapter returns to physiological effects; the assessment of hearing handicap and damage risk from noise.

Finally, there are three chapters related to the effects of noise, one on the effects of noise on performance of tasks, a discussion more than 100 pages on non-auditory effects of noise such as sleep disturbance and health disorders, and a final chapter on community reactions to environmental noise.