

Occupational Hearing Conservation



University of Minnesota
Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety

Course Director

- Ted Madison, M.A., CCC-A
 - Audiologist
 - Technical Service Specialist
 - 3M Occupational Health & Environmental Safety Division
 - Certified CAOHC Course Director
 - CAOHC board member
 - Past-President of NHCA

tkmadison@mmm.com
www.hearinglossprevention.org

CAOHC Approved Course

- Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation



www.caohc.org Phone 414-876-5338

CAOHC Certification

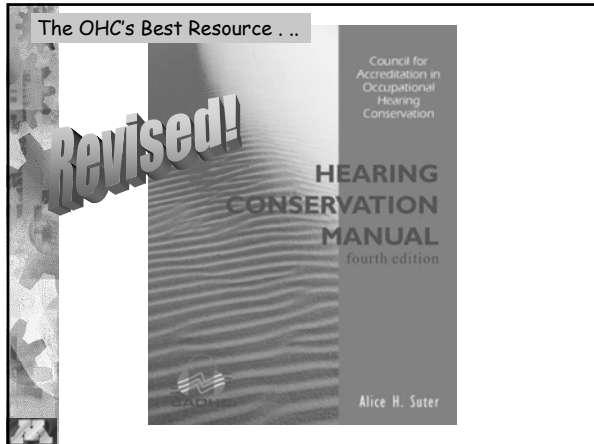
- Awarded upon successful completion of this CAOHC-approved course
- A CAOHC-certified person is an "OHC"
 - Occupational Hearing Conservationist
- Recertification period is 5 years

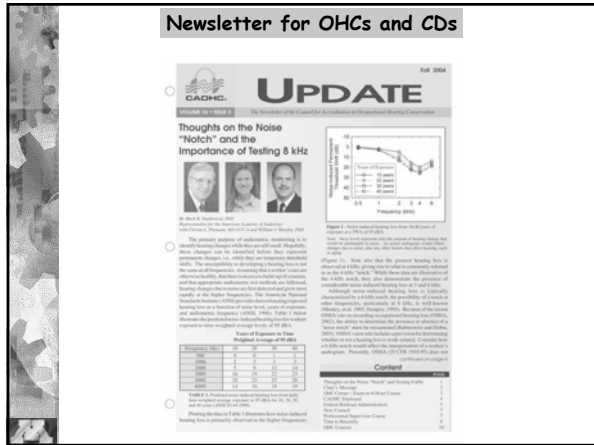
What is CAOHC?

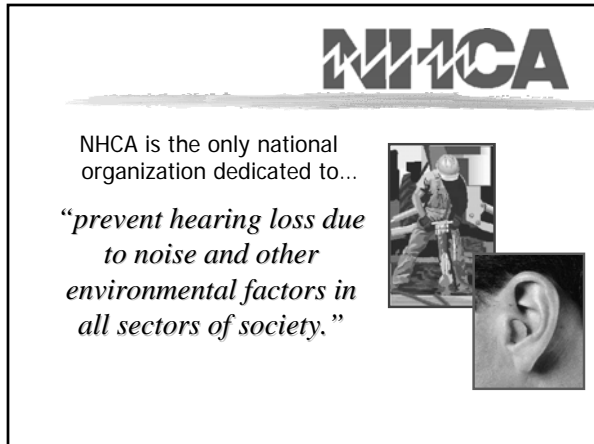
- Certification body for OHCs and Course Directors (CDs)
 - 21,000 OHCs and 350 CDs
 - Not a professional society
 - Not a membership organization

What is CAOHC?

- Component Organizations from various professions
 - Audiology
 - Medicine
 - Nursing
 - Noise Control
 - Industrial Hygiene
 - Safety









NHCA provides
the network
and resources
to help you
prevent hearing loss



www.hearingconservation.org

The Role of the OHC

- Front line in occupational hearing loss prevention
 - Key to implementation of Hearing Conservation Program (HCP)
 - Direct contact with noise-exposed workers
- Communication link between employees and employers

The Role of the OHC

- Audiometric testing
 - Baseline & annual tests
 - Screening audiograms for review
 - Audiometer care & maintenance
- Visual inspection of outer ear
- Taking medical history
 - Referring workers for testing / treatment
- Recordkeeping

The Role of the OHC

- Notifying employees about STS in a timely manner
 - Standard Threshold Shift
- Teaching / training employees
- Selecting / fitting hearing protectors
- Interface with professional supervisor
 - Audiologist
 - Physician

Outside of OHC's Responsibility

- Audiogram interpretation
- Diagnosis of hearing problems
- Hearing tests other than air-conduction audiometry
- Evaluation of HCP effectiveness
- Training other OHCs

Role of Professional Supervisor

- Supervise audiometric testing
- Recommend follow-up procedures
- Manage audiometric database
- Determine work-relatedness of employee hearing losses

Noise Exposure

- 10-30 million US workers exposed to high noise on the job
- 25% of people in US exposed to loud noise off-the-job



Induced Hearing Loss Is Preventable

- Workers don't have to sacrifice their hearing just because of a noisy job
- Protecting hearing off the job is also important
 - Music
 - Motor Sports
 - Shooting & Hunting
 - Power tools