

# Yellowstone National Park Safety Newsletter

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
January 2004



"Safety records don't happen by accident"

## FY 2004 First Quarter Accident Statistics

Lost Time:	<u>FY 2002</u>		<u>FY 2003</u>		<u>FY 2004</u>	
	Maint	0	Maint	0	Maint:	2
	Rangers	0	Rangers	1	Rangers	2
			Admin	1		
Days Lost:		0		3		17
Total Number of Incidents:		9		14		15

## FY 2004 Causes of Lost Time Accidents

### **Maintenance**

- Employee injured wrist while performing trail work – repetitive motion
- Employee injured elbow while performing trail work – repetitive motion

### **Rangers**

- Employee suffered broken arm when he was kicked by a mule
- Employee tore calf muscle as part of physical conditioning

### **SHARP AWARD WINNERS**

There were no \$25 winners for the month of December. Do you have a safety suggestion? SHARP forms are on the intranet under Divisions – Safety. Look for and correct safety and health hazards. The Safety Advisory Council selected these employees for October as "Safety Champions." Thanks for your effort:

Colette Daigle-Berg:  
Doug MacCartney:  
Doug Madsen:

Continuing efforts to improve safety in the Tower Area  
Coordinating Fire Department Confined Space Rescue Training with the Plumbing Shop  
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### **Yellowstone National Park Safety Core Value #2**

**Working safely is an expectation and responsibility of each employee, supervisor, and contractor in Yellowstone National Park.**

# How loud is loud?

Audiometric testing in 2003 showed that 6 percent of Yellowstone's maintenance staff suffered a Standard Threshold Shift (STS). A STS is a negative and permanent shift in an employee's ability to hear. The average STS should be no more than 3 percent of the workforce annually. The high number of STS in Yellowstone may be attributable to a different testing system and better record keeping implemented in 2003, but it should serve as a wake-up call that we need to make sure we protect our hearing. One of the first steps is for employees to have a general awareness of how loud is loud.

Both the amount of noise and the length of time you are exposed to the noise determine its ability to damage your hearing. Noise levels are measured in decibels (dB). The higher the decibel level, the louder the noise. Sounds louder than 85 decibels are considered hazardous. The noise chart below gives an idea of average decibel levels for everyday sounds you may be exposed to:

## Painful:

170 dB = Shotgun

140 dB = Air raid siren

130 dB = Jackhammer

120 dB = Chain Saw

## Extremely loud:

110 dB = Rock Music

100 dB = Pneumatic Drill

95 dB = 4-stroke snowmobile, John Deere 770 B Grader

90 dB = Aluminum Boat with Four Strokes Motor

## Very loud:

80 dB = alarm clock, busy street

70 dB = busy traffic, vacuum cleaner

60 dB = conversation, dishwasher

## Moderate:

50 dB = moderate rainfall

40 dB = quiet room

## Faint:

30 dB = whisper, quiet library

## Warning Signs of Hazardous Noise

- You must raise your voice to be heard
- You can't hear someone two feet away from you
- Speech around you sounds muffled or dull after leaving a noisy area
- You have pain or ringing in your ears (tinnitus) after exposure to noise

**Hearing Protection (ear  
plugs) is required when  
exposed to noise above 85  
decibels.**