

# SAFETY FIRST

## MRFs & HEARING LOSS

Materials recovery facilities (MRFs) can be extremely loud workplaces because they have many noise sources. Collection workers are subject to the noise of hydraulic lifts on the collection vehicles and noises from compaction.

### Are you at risk for hearing loss?

- Is the noise level so loud that you have to raise your voice significantly for someone an arm's length away to hear you?
- When you leave work and am in a quieter environment, do your ears feel plugged?
- Do you hear a mild ringing or whooshing noise that goes away after an hour or two?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you should have your hearing tested. Working in a loud environment can put employees at risk for temporary or permanent hearing loss and increases fatigue.

[Learn more by completing SWANA's Managing Recycling Systems Certification Course.](#)



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