**Noise - is** any unwanted sounds that have a potential to interfere with communication and damage people’s hearing.

**Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL)** - is a permanent impairment of hearing, resulting from exposure to excessive noise. NIHL is one of the most prevalent [occupational injuries](http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/topic/occupational-injuries) in the South African mining industry.

The ultimate **goal** of the MOSH Noise Team is to focus on noise source elimination initiatives. However, the Noise Team also realizes the need to balance between economic realities, technological limitations and management of the noise hazard and including the feasibility of some endeavors hence it does support effective Engineering and Administrative Controls and Personalised Protective Clothing.

**HPD TAS Tool**

The Hearing Protection Device and Training awareness Tool was identified as a leading practice 2010. It consists of two parts, namely:

1. Educational and Motivational Material (TAS part of the tool)
2. HPD Selection Tool

The objective of the HPD TAS leading practice is to assist the South African Mining Industry in realizing the elimination of NIHL by improving the effectiveness of mine Hearing Conservation Programs. This Leading Practice will improve mineworkers’ knowledge of NIHL and awareness of noise as a hazard, as well as improve motivation to comply with healthy and safe work practices. Furthermore, the tool also includes the correct use / wearing of HPDs, and also enables Occupational Hygienists and Health and Safety Practitioners to ensure that the correct HPD is made available to the various end-users in the mining industry. To date the Leading practice has been adopted by ten Mining Houses (80 Shafts)