

PM-4 **TYPICAL SOUND INTENSITY LEVELS**

Sound Level (dB)	Source of Sound	Impact on Humans
130+	Jet plane taking off	Threshold of pain
100-120	Rock concert	Extremely loud
100	Jack hammer	Very loud
90	Heavy traffic	
80	Noisy workplace	
70	Vacuum cleaner	Loud
60	Normal conversation	
50	Quiet automobile, quiet office	Moderate
40	Quiet living room	
30	Country home, no traffic	Quiet
20	Whisper	
10	Rustle of leaves	Very quiet
0		Threshold of hearing

NOTES:

1. These are only approximations. The sound intensity experienced by a person depends on closeness to source and on the actual frequencies of the sound.
2. The sound level scale is a logarithmic scale. This means that when the sound intensity changes by 10 dB (or 1 bel), the sound intensity changes by a factor of 10. For example, in going from 50 to 100 dB (5 bels), the sound intensity increases by a factor of 10^5 or 100,000! Thus the normal human ear can hear sounds over an extremely wide intensity range.