



HEARING IMPAIRMENT

Hearing impairment is a broad term used to describe the loss of hearing in one or both ears. There are different levels of hearing impairment: 1) Hearing impairment refers to complete or partial loss of the ability to hear from one or both ears. The level of impairment can be mild, moderate, severe or profound; 2) Deafness refers to the complete loss of ability to hear from one or both ears.

- According to 2005 estimates by the World Health Organization, 278 million people worldwide have moderate to profound hearing loss in both ears. (28 million people in the United States)
- 50% of deafness and hearing impairment is avoidable through prevention, early diagnosis, and management.
- For a person who cannot hear, common household gadgets that rely on sound are useless. Consider the many devices you encounter each day that communicate to you through a ring or a sound - alarm clocks, doorbells, smoke detectors, telephones and fax machines. And although not a device, babies also use sound (crying) to get an adult's attention. People who are deaf need an alternative method for being awakened in the morning, realizing someone is at the door, being alerted to the possibility of a fire, knowing the phone (or TTY) needs to be answered, and being alerted to their baby's crying.
- The term "alerting devices" is used to describe gadgets that can signal to get the attention and/or indicate the presence of sounds in the environment through one of three ways: providing a louder sound (for people who are hard of hearing), providing a light flash, or causing a tactile vibration.



Assistive Listening Device



Strobe Lights



Signaling Devices



Vibrating Alarm Clocks

Telephone Relay service with TTY Access:



Some Assistive Device:

- Alarm Clock With Flasher/Strobe Light/Pillow Vibrator**
- Shake Awake Travel Alarm Clock**
- Door Beacon**
- Wireless Strobe Door Chime**
- Smoke Detector with Strobe Light/Bed Vibrator**
- Baby Cry Signaler**
- Wireless Pager**
- Cellular Phone Amplifier**
- TTY/Braille TTY**
- CapTel phone**
- Personal Sound Amplifiers to increase ability to hear sounds 60 feet away**
- Weather Alert Radio with Strobe Light/Pillow Vibrator**
- Vibrating Watch**
- TV Ears**
- Pocket Talker**
- Amplified Stethoscope**
- Ubi-Duo**

For information on any product or any question about people who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing, contact:

ICAN
26 Corporate Hill
Little Rock, AR 72205
www.ar-ican.org

501-666-8868 main
800-828-2799 Toll free
866-633-6756 VP
501-666-5319 Fax

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