What are Assistive Devices?

Assistive Devices are types of equipment that alert people with hearing loss to commonly missed sounds.

Commonly Missed Sounds

When you have a hearing loss, everyday sounds may become difficult to hear. In many cases, an Assistive Device can help you become aware of these everyday sounds. Some of the sounds you may miss are:

- Telephone Ringing
- Doorbell
- Alarm Clock
- Watch Alarm
- Knocking at the door
- Oven/Microwave
- Timer
- Fire Alarm
- Baby Crying

How does an Assistive Device Alert Me to a Noise?

Three common methods used to indicate a sound:

1. Make the Noise Louder
2. Vibration
3. Flashing Lights

Devices may use one method or a combination of methods. Assistive Devices may be wireless, wired into the electric system or plugged into an electric outlet.

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Assistive Devices

Where can I get an Assistive Device?

The DSDHH staff at your regional center can discuss your needs, demonstrate equipment and help you determine what will work best for you. Some equipment is available through DSDHH’s Equipment Distribution Service and other resources. Once you select a system, the DSDHH staff can assist you with an application, provide catalogs from which you can order the desired equipment, or refer you to other available resources. After you receive your system, the DSDHH staff can provide technical assistance, installation and training.

Examples of Assistive Devices

Alarm Clocks
These clocks offer the option of:
- loud tone alarm
- vibrating alarm
- flashing light alarm
- many styles and colors
- battery powered travel styles

Telephone Signalers
Stand-alone telephone signalers offer:
- adjustable ringer tone
- volume control
- flashing light
- connection to a telephone jack

Examples of Assistive Devices

Fire and/or Carbon-Monoxide Alarms
There are several different fire alarm systems that:
- run on batteries
- have a loud alarm
- have flashing lights
- have a bed shaker
- can be wired into the electrical system

Door Signalers
Portable door knock sensors are available for traveling. These sensors:
- hang on the doorknob or stick to the door
- flash a light when a knock is detected

Weather Alert
A weather alert radio alerts individuals to severe weather alerts issued by the National Weather Service.

Examples of Assistive Devices

The radios have:
- a strobe light
- bed shaker
- text display describing the emergency

The individual with the hearing loss is alerted to a possible emergency. More information can then be found by turning on the television or checking a weather report online.

Personal Pagers
Many different styles of vibrating pagers are available. These pagers use vibration to alert someone to the time or an alarm.

Alerting Systems
Alerting systems consist of transmitters and receivers that:
- can plug directly into a telephone line
- may be placed in different rooms in the house
- work with a doorbell transmitter
- include receivers which vibrate, flash a light, or emit a loud noise
- can alert you to the telephone, a doorbell, someone knocking at the door, a baby crying, an oven timer, or a fire alarm