

HEALTH. SAFETY. SECURITY. ENVIRONMENT.

# HSSE Bulletin



Safety - Make it Personal



July 2, 2012

*"Day-in and day-out drill crews everywhere are exposed to potentially dangerous levels of noise. Our program was designed to simply and clearly communicate the appropriate level of protection needed based on real scientific data." —*  
**Wayne Smith,**  
**President, Custom**  
**Drilling Services**

[Scott McKinney](#)

Sr VP, Oil & Gas/Shell  
 Program Manager



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 company

## Hearing Conservation Program

GES is nominating Michael D. Johnson, Drilling Services Manager, Custom Drilling Services of Mulberry, Florida in recognition of his recently-implemented hearing conservation program. Custom is a drilling contractor specializing in environmental, industrial, construction, mine support, and geotechnical drilling.

### Situation

Recognizing their field staff works each day around numerous types of equipment and machinery that produce noise concerns, Custom implemented an intensive hearing conservation study and designed a program that clearly and simply communicates appropriate levels of hearing protection for each type of equipment, thereby removing any equivocation on the type or need for hearing protection. It was Custom's intent to recognize the potential hearing loss that could occur from the various machines used in field events.

### Approach

Custom recognized that noise levels during drilling and many of the ancillary activities associated with drilling affect everyone working around equipment including clients and patrons to retail facilities. Custom contracted a third-party professional noise consultant who spent many hours observing and monitoring the field crews in action. Calibrated equipment was used to measure the noise exposure levels from all equipment using time weighted averages. From that, a hearing conservation plan was established to inform everyone affected by the equipment.

Metal signs were designed to be affixed to each tool or piece of machinery. The signs are color-coded to identify the protection required. Green meaning no protection, orange for single protection, and red for double protection. Each tag also indicates the distance from the equipment the hearing protection should be worn.



### Benefit

Custom identified the importance of understating the actual noise levels produced during their work via a scientific survey, and used that hard data to produce a clear and simple program for communicating the necessary levels of hearing protection based on the type of work in order to protect employees and others from hearing loss due to occupational exposure.