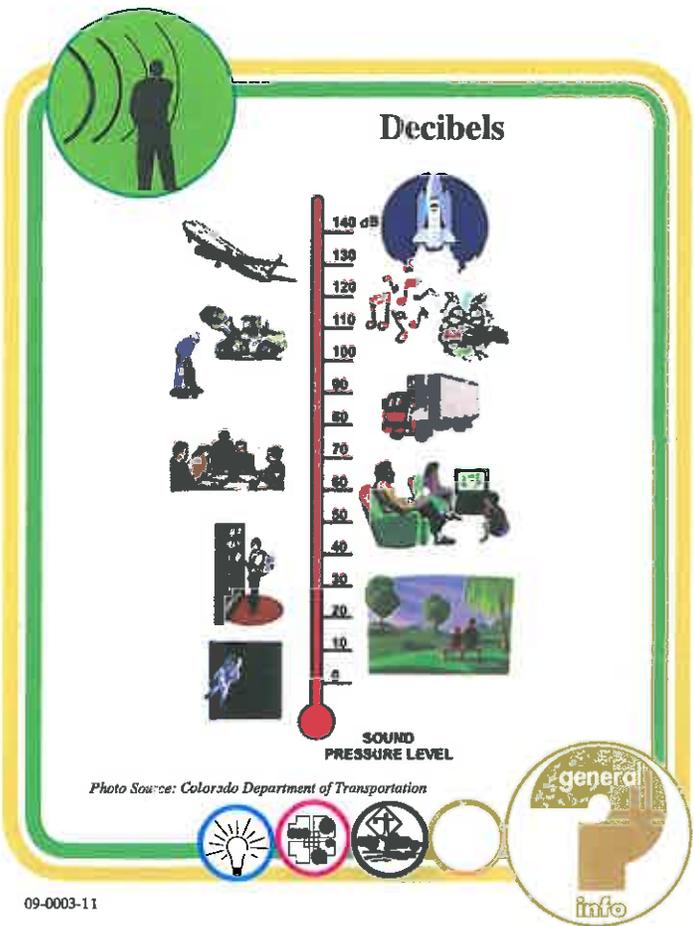
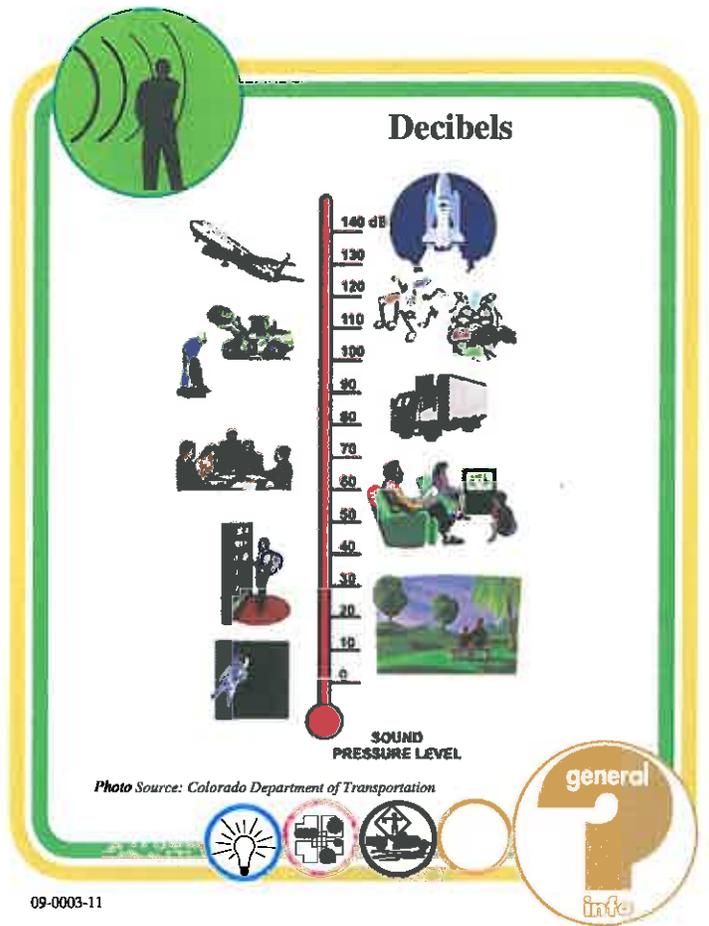


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## Decibels

Sounds that are within normal human hearing range are usually discussed in terms of decibels (dB). The range of the decibel scale is similar to the degrees on a thermometer. Sounds of 40 dB or below are relatively quiet (cold), 40 to 70 dB are moderate (includes normal conversation at about 60 dB), and sounds 70 dB or higher are generally considered to be loud (warm). Levels above 100 decibels are very loud (hot).

Mathematically, the decibel scale is not linear but is instead logarithmic. Therefore, a doubling of sound results in an increase of about three decibels, not a 100% increase in the number of decibels.

Traffic noise measurements, in decibels, are often averaged over a period of time, such as an hour, because instantaneous levels are greatly affected by isolated events such as a truck braking, or by the passing of a siren or a motorcycle.



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