



Noise and Line of Sight

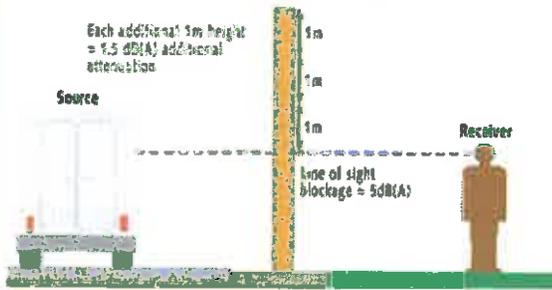


Photo Source: Federal Highway Administration



09-0006-11



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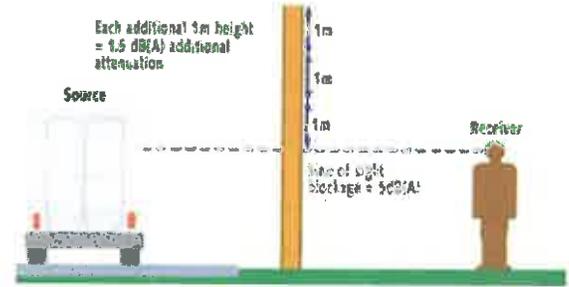


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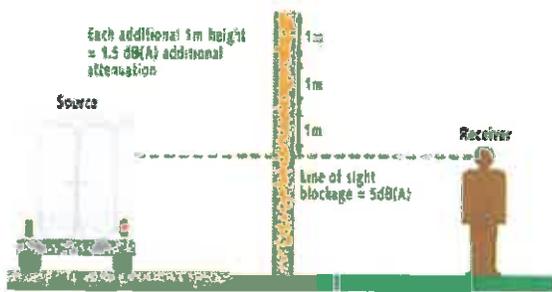


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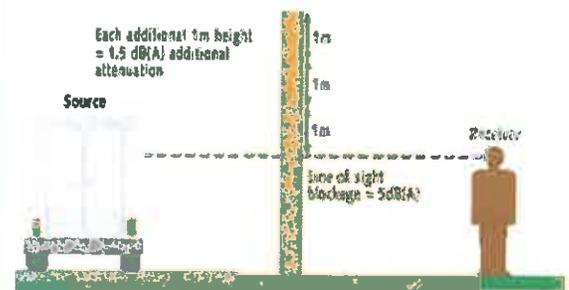


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Noise and Line of Sight

Noise barriers reduce the sound which enters a community from a busy highway by either absorbing the sound, transmitting it, reflecting it back across the highway, or forcing it to take a longer path over and around the barrier. A noise barrier must be tall enough and long enough to block the view of a highway from the area that is to be protected, the “receiver.”

A noise barrier can reduce traffic noise by 5 decibels [dB(A)] when it is tall enough to break the line-of-sight from the highway to the home or receiver. After it breaks the line-of-sight, it can achieve approximately 1.5 dB(A) of additional noise level reduction for each meter of barrier height.

Noise barriers provide very little benefit for homes on a hillside overlooking a highway or for buildings which rise above the barrier.



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