

Heavy Equipment Operators

Open Pit Mines Case Study



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Background

Open Pit Mines are rugged environments where workers have to work in and around large noisy heavy equipment. From multi million dollar haul trucks to fleets of 4-wheel drive pickup trucks, open pit mine operations involve a wide array of heavy equipment which are designed to ensure efficient and effective extraction of minerals from the ground. Communication is one of the most critical requirements as workers operating the heavy equipment need to communicate with other drivers and workers to ensure complete coordination and maximum safety.

Problem

Large haul trucks and other heavy equipment such as shovels, bulldozers, bobcats and water trucks are all characterized by high noise inside the cabins. Typically drivers are cranking up their dash mount radios and their music to compensate for the high ambient noise levels which fluctuate between high 80's to high 90's average weighted decibels within the cabin. This results in an unhealthy (heightened stress and tension) and unsafe (potential hearing loss and risk of fatalities) work situation. Given these operators are working 12 hour shifts, they are looking for a way to reduce the noise in the cabin so that they can communicate safely, protect their hearing and remain aware of their surroundings while in the cabin and when they step outside.



Solution

Sensear's high noise communication headsets are a unique solution for heavy equipment operators. When wearing the Sensear Smart Ear Muff or Ear Plug product in the cabin, drivers are able to enjoy a more normal hearing and communication experience. Sensear's **SENS™** Technology reduces the loud background noise to a safe level while elevating the communication on the dash mount radio. Drivers can turn down the volume of the dash mount radio and music so they have a more relaxing experience, remain more alert and protect their hearing at the same time. Sensear has developed special cables to connect into various dash mount radios so the driver can transmit from the headset rather than the speaker mic.

Results

The Sensear solution benefits mine operations in a number of ways. Firstly, communication is enhanced significantly, resulting in fewer cases of lost or inaccurate communication which can lead to truck back ups and potentially dangerous consequences. Secondly, the risk of hearing loss is significantly reduced as drivers are always protected. Since they can perform their job effectively with the headsets on, there is less temptation to remove them. Finally, Sensear enhances safety by providing drivers with better situational awareness both inside and outside the heavy equipment. This results in improved productivity and enhanced worker safety.



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