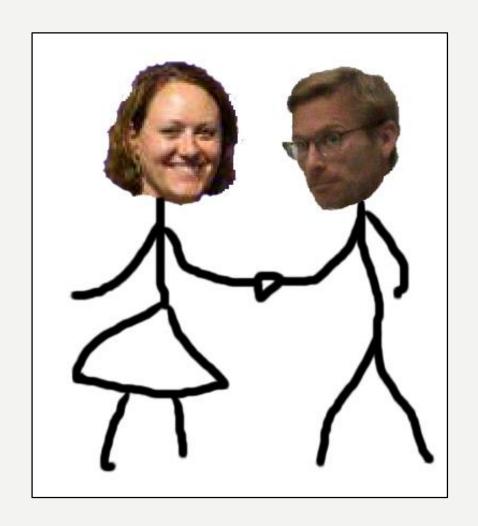
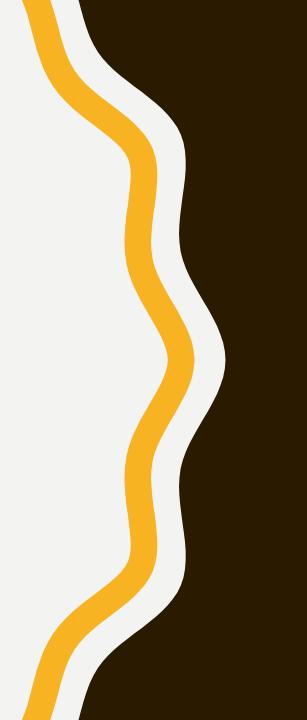
LEAN AND BROKE

WHAT WE LEARNED PARTNERING ON A NATIONAL CHALLENGE WITH NO MONEY AND NO TIME









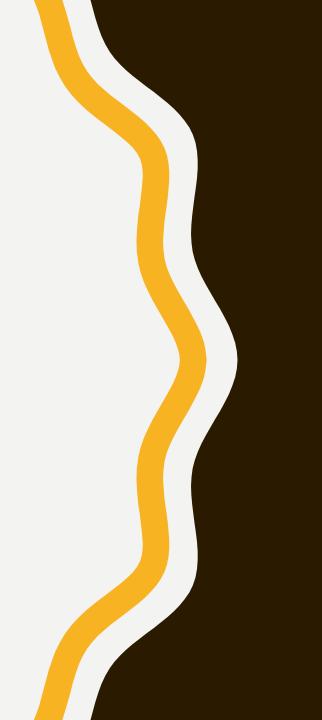
JUNE

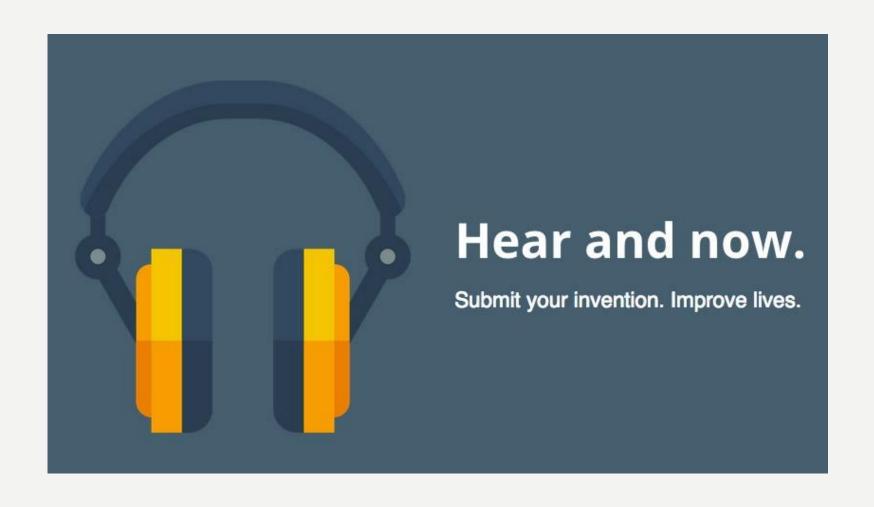




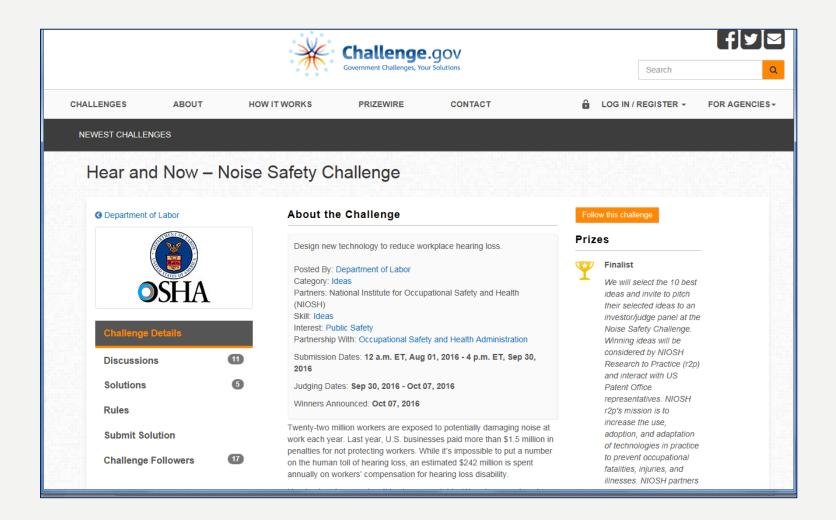








AUGUST



SEPTEMBER

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Cardiovascular Disease

Hear and Now: The Noise Safety Challenge

Posted on September 12, 2016 by Garrett Burnett, MS, MBA



The Burden of Noise

The idea of being hurt on the job tends to produce images of harrowing trauma, broken bones, and blood. Yet every year for more than a quarter of a century, hearing loss has quietly been among the most prevalent occupational health concerns in the United States. Approximately 22 million U.S. workers are exposed to hazardous noise levels at work. In addition to diminishing workers' quality of life, occupational hearing loss carries a high economic price to society.

An Opportunity to Innovate

Occupational hearing loss is a problem that can be solved. OSHA and NIOSH are inviting businesses, inventors, and entrepreneurs to tackle the problem. Together we have announced Hear and Now: The Noise Safety Challenge. We are encouraging innovation and creative ideas that will make it possible to

- 1. Eliminate a noise source
- 2. Substitute a loud machine or tool for a quieter one (as typified in the NIOSH Buy Quiet initiative)
- Isolate a noise source
- 4. Change work processes to minimize the noise a worker is exposed to
- 5. Create more effective protective equipment

Check the Hear and Now @ web page for more information, or submit an idea through Challenge.gov @.

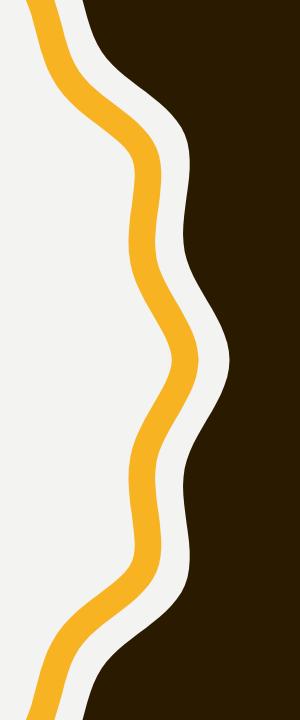
Important Dates

- . October 7, 2016: Top 10 ideas selected and announced.
- October 27, 2016: The Noise Safety Challenge Final will be held in Washington, D.C.

OCTOBER







AFTERWARD

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

- "We're not a giant company, so an award from OSHA and NIOSH is meaningful."
- "Being selected was a huge boost to our credibility."
- "The press releases provided leads, including paying clients."
- "Since the challenge, we've sold out of product."

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

- "For early-stage companies, the validation is huge."
- "It was really great meeting these other companies. We've stayed in touch with each other."
- "Recognition is a big feather for us."

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

- "We got a lot of calls afterwards."
- "The government gave us this third-party validation."
- "To get that many 'government players' into one room would have taken us a year and cost about \$100,000."

SUGGESTED INCENTIVES

- Help navigating the government procurement system.
- Lists of companies that are champions of hearing protection and companies we know that are seeking noise safety solutions.
- Lists of companies that have noise-related pain points (OSHA citations, workplace incidents, etc.).
- More access to NIOSH/OSHA labs, tools, and researchers.