

Hearing Protection Matters:

Delivering Hearing Safety and Hearing Conservation in your Community

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Why is Hearing Protection Important?



1 in 8 people in the United States, age 12 years or older has hearing loss in both ears, based on standard hearing examinations¹



1 in 4 people projected to have hearing problems by 2050²

Webinar FAQs

How to Ask a Question

Click Q & A, type your question, and Send

Where to get the handout

A PDF handout for this presentation may be accessed through your Pending Courses on Audiology Online or by clicking on the link in Chat within the classroom

How to earn CEUs

CEUs are available with a paid Audiology Online Unlimited CEU Access membership

After completing the course, go to your Pending Courses on Audiology Online and pass the multiple-choice exam

Assistance or Tech Support

Call 800-753-2160

customerexperience@continued.com

Use the Q&A window



Risks and Benefits

The applicability and accuracy of the course content may vary by the clinical, geographical, and cultural context; you should evaluate the course accordingly.

As healthcare is rapidly evolving, new findings may change the validity of the information presented in this course. Providers should always consult the latest research and guidelines from professional associations.

The interventions discussed in this course may be limited in generalizability, requiring practitioners to consider specific individual and population factors.

The course may not cover all possible risk factors, diagnostic methods, or treatment options, and complex cases may require additional considerations.

Healthcare providers should apply cultural competence and sensitivity to ensure effective and respectful care based on their patients' diverse needs.

Providers should always evaluate the limitations of diagnostic and screening tools, considering their potential for false results as well as any ethical implications.

It is the responsibility of course participants to critically evaluate the evidence from multiple sources to guide professional practice.

Course Goals

1

Understand the scope of NIHL in communities

2

Identify opportunities for hearing professionals to engage outside the clinic

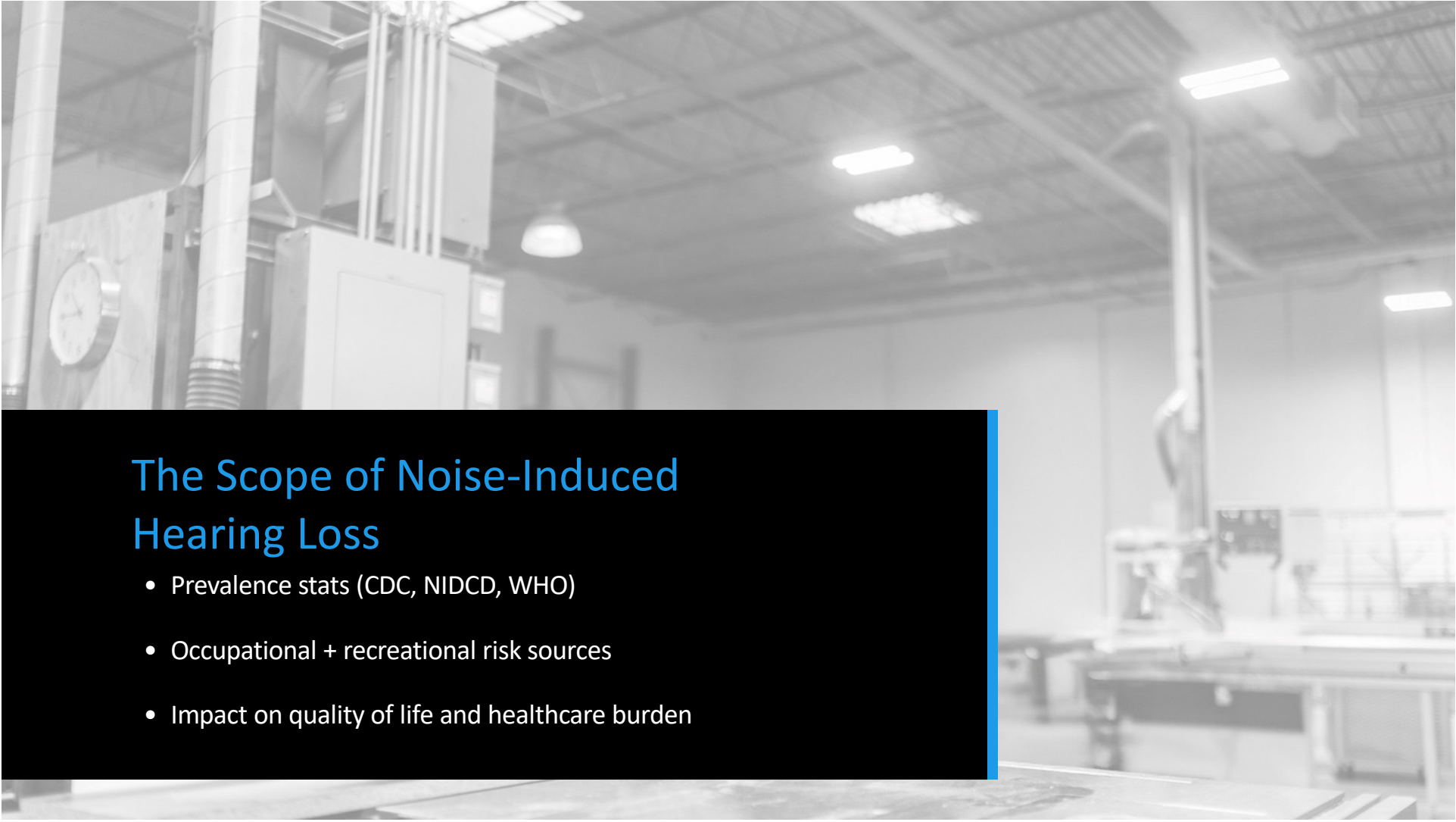
3

Review effective protection solutions and counseling strategies

4

Explore scenario-based examples of outreach and impact





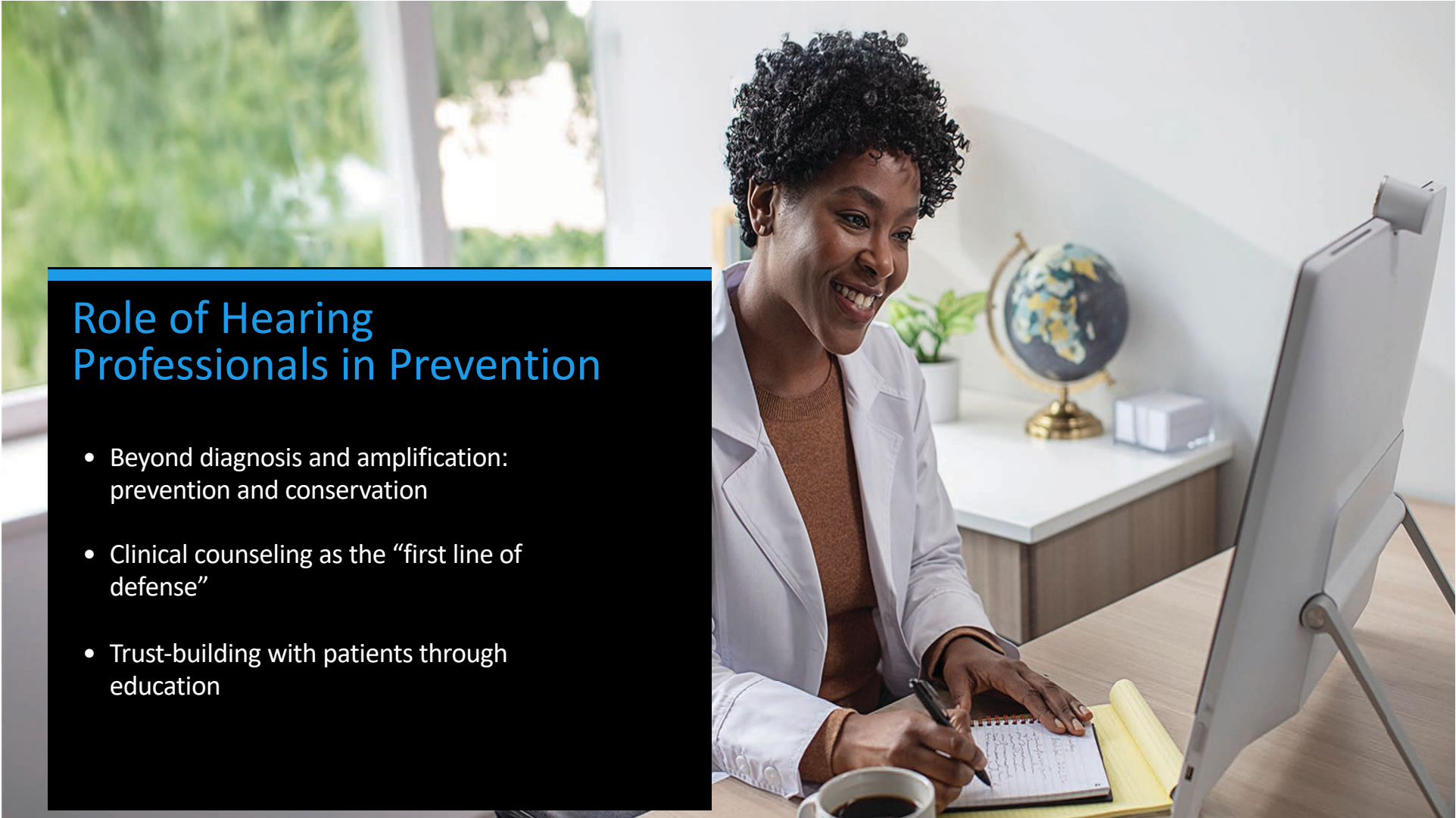
The Scope of Noise-Induced Hearing Loss

- Prevalence stats (CDC, NIDCD, WHO)
- Occupational + recreational risk sources
- Impact on quality of life and healthcare burden



At-Risk Populations

- Children/teens (personal listening devices, school activities)
- Workers in industry, construction, military
- Hunters, shooters, musicians, motorsports enthusiasts
- Aging population continuing in noisy hobbies/work



Role of Hearing Professionals in Prevention

- Beyond diagnosis and amplification: prevention and conservation
- Clinical counseling as the “first line of defense”
- Trust-building with patients through education



Delivering Hearing Safety in Your Community

- **Community outreach examples:**
 - Schools (safe listening education)
 - Employers/industry (OSHA compliance, safety fairs)
 - Recreational clubs (hunting, motorsports, music groups)
 - Public health campaigns (local events, social media, flyers)
- How these efforts build awareness + trust
- Benefits: public health impact + professional visibility



Noise Protection Solutions: Passive vs. Active

- Passive options (earmuffs, foam plugs, filtered plugs)
- Active electronic options (level-dependent, situational awareness)
- Clinical pros/cons



Custom-Fit vs. Instant-Fit

- Comfort and compliance considerations
- When each approach is most effective
- Counseling patients on options



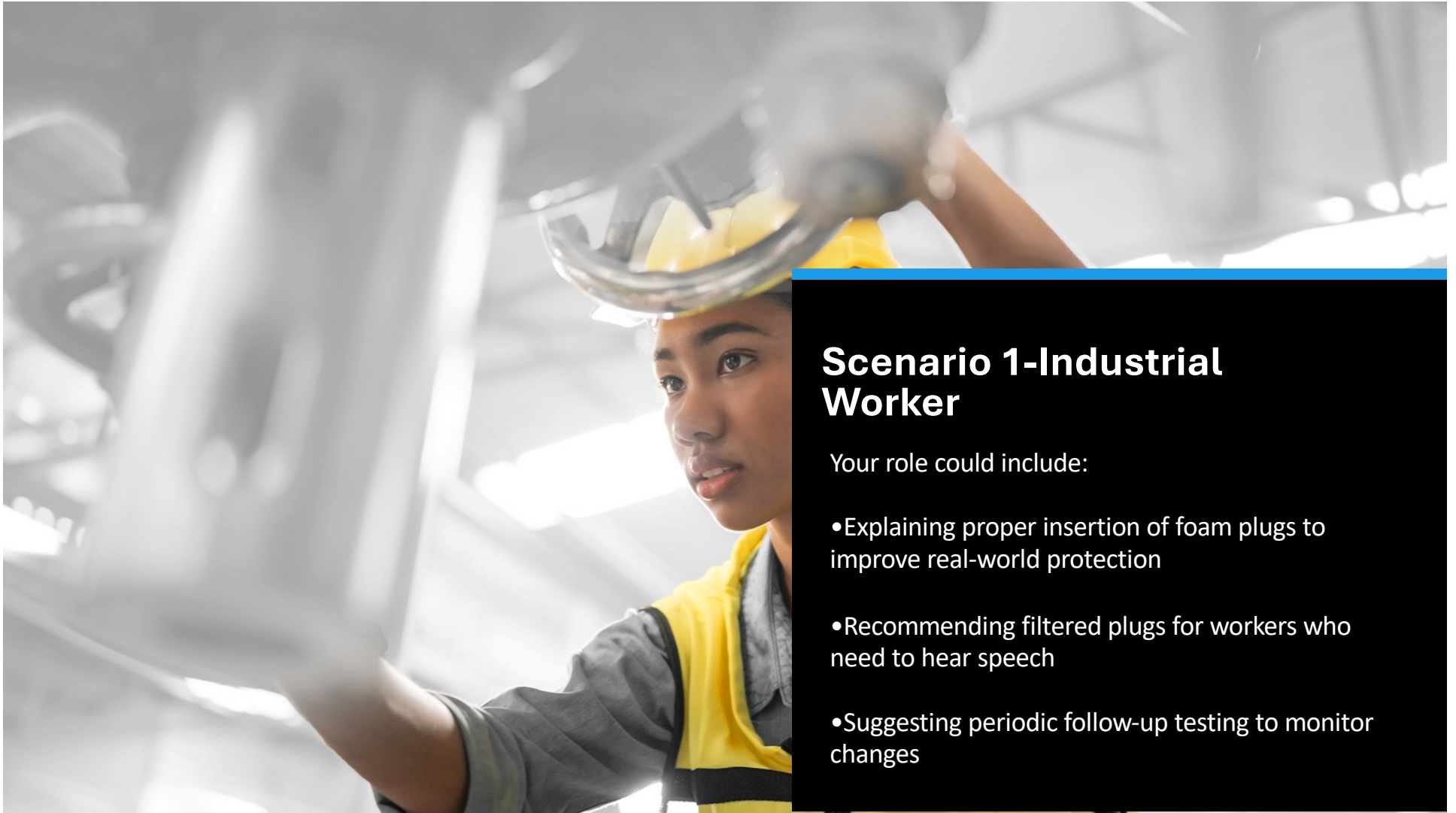
Understanding NRR & Effectiveness

- What NRR means (and limitations)
- Factors that reduce real-world attenuation (fit, compliance)
- How to counsel patients to set realistic expectations



Clinical Counseling Flow

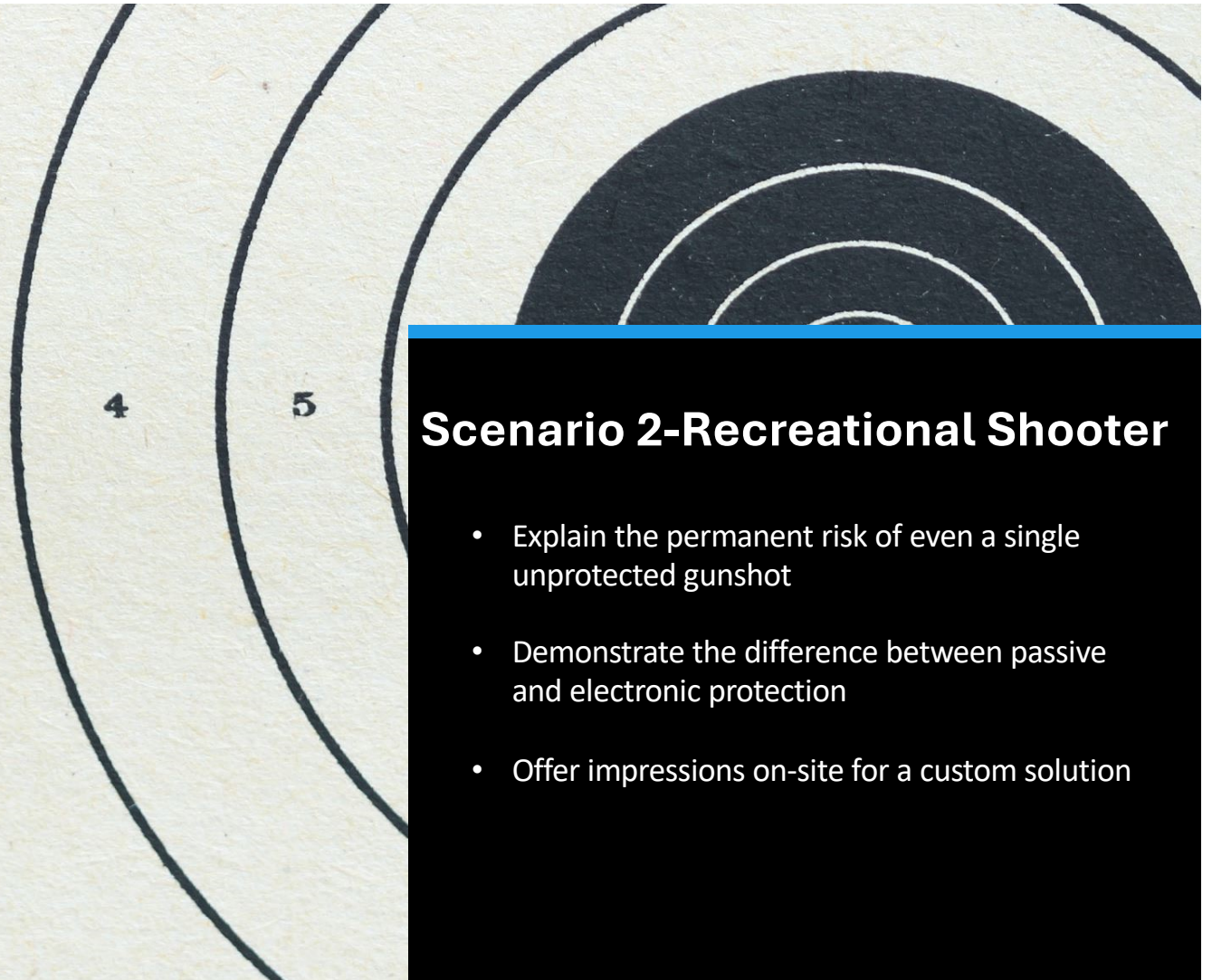
- Quick needs assessment
- Match lifestyle to solution type
- Counseling scripts: how to keep education simple and effective
- Follow-up and reinforcement strategies



Scenario 1-Industrial Worker

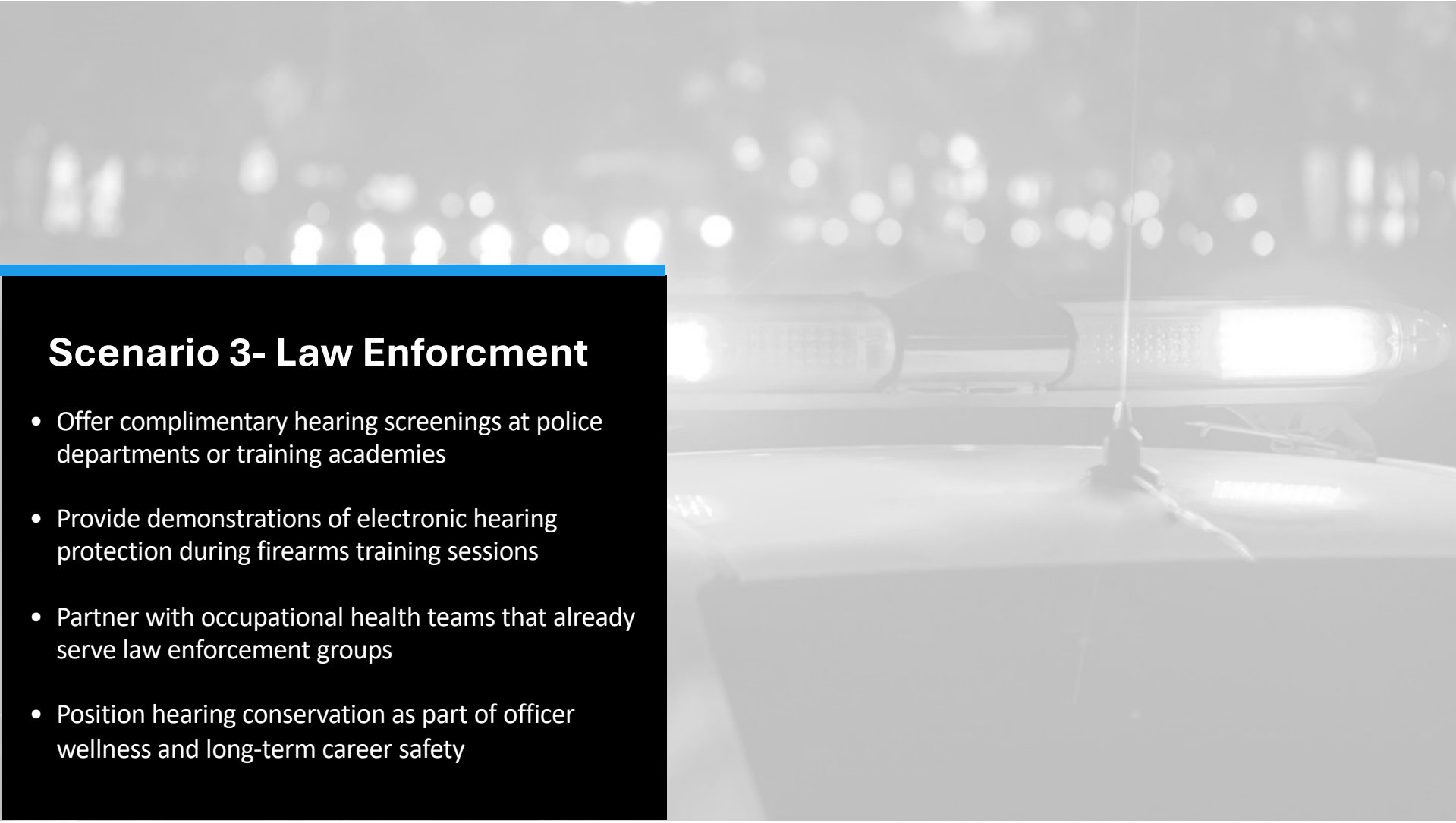
Your role could include:

- Explaining proper insertion of foam plugs to improve real-world protection
- Recommending filtered plugs for workers who need to hear speech
- Suggesting periodic follow-up testing to monitor changes



Scenario 2-Recreational Shooter

- Explain the permanent risk of even a single unprotected gunshot
- Demonstrate the difference between passive and electronic protection
- Offer impressions on-site for a custom solution



Scenario 3- Law Enforcement

- Offer complimentary hearing screenings at police departments or training academies
- Provide demonstrations of electronic hearing protection during firearms training sessions
- Partner with occupational health teams that already serve law enforcement groups
- Position hearing conservation as part of officer wellness and long-term career safety



SoundCheck Live

Find out if noise around you is safe or potentially harmful to your hearing using the SoundCheck Live sound level meter

Learn about environmental noise and how it may impact your hearing

Discover ways you can protect your hearing — everything from hearing protection devices like SoundGear, to limiting your exposure

Summary & Key Takeaways

- Hearing loss prevention = public health priority
- Hearing Specialists have unique community leadership role
- Encourage attendees: pick one local opportunity to act on





SOUNDGEAR

Wherever sound is a problem,
SoundGear has a solution

Joe Freed

Account Development Manager

Thank you

