

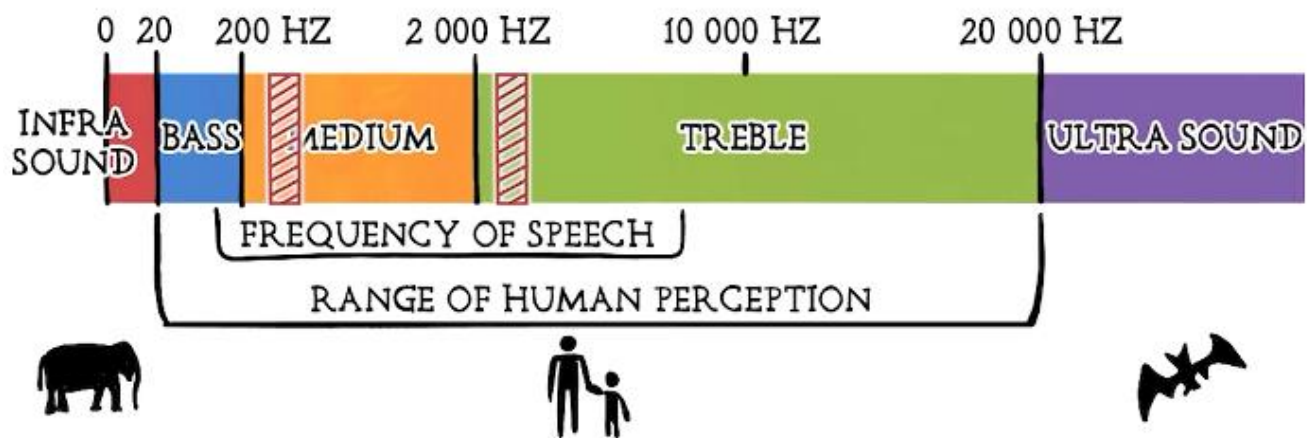
WHAT IS LOW-FREQUENCY NOTIFICATION?

INTRODUCTION TO NOTIFICATION & INITIATION SERIES BY MEYERFIRE UNIVERSITY | FEBRUARY 2023

SUMMARY

Low-frequency notification is a method of delivering Temporal-3 fire alarm notification using lower frequency range to provide the tone (at 520 Hz).

- The advantage of low-frequency notification is that it has been tested to be most effective at waking up sleeping occupants, especially high-risk sleeping occupants like alcohol-impaired individuals, young children, elderly individuals, and those with hearing impairments.
- Low frequency alarm signals were first introduced into the National Fire Alarm Code in the 2010 Edition of NFPA 72. NFPA 72 mandates low-frequency use in areas where the alarm is intended to wake sleeping occupants by the building fire alarm system, and for alarms initiated by a smoke alarm in sleeping areas where occupants have mild to severe hearing loss.
- NFPA 101 also has requirements for low-frequency notification, particularly in new hotels and dormitories and new apartment buildings. NFPA 101 requires low frequency regardless of the hearing ability of occupants within that room.



Frequency Range of Sound

(Note the red dashed range of 520 Hz on the left is the low-frequency notification range, while the standard higher frequency Temporal-3 is on the right at 3150 Hz)

CODE/STANDARD REFERENCES



NFPA 72 – 2010: Section 29.3.8.1 Low Frequency Requirements for Single and Multiple Station Alarms

NFPA 72 – 2013: Section 18.4.5.3 Low Frequency Requirements for Sleeping Areas

NFPA 101 – 2021: Section 9.6.2.10.3.1 Low Frequency Requirement where Notification is Required in Sleeping Rooms

VIDEO LINK

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