

Alerting Devices Serve Many Needs

Alerting devices (ADs) can help hearing-impaired listeners enjoy life more fully because they alert listeners to sounds or events that are critically important to living.

People with hearing loss as well as those who hear normally may use ADs because they provide an enhanced awareness to communication and environmental conditions that may involve a person's safety and quality of life. ADs can be used in many situations, including home, work, school, social gatherings, meetings, hospitals, churches, theaters, cars—almost anywhere. And there are many types of ADs to address different needs.

Telephone indicators are bells, ringers, vibrators and flashers that are connected to a telephone. Many are now equipped to respond differently to different callers helping the listener know who is calling.

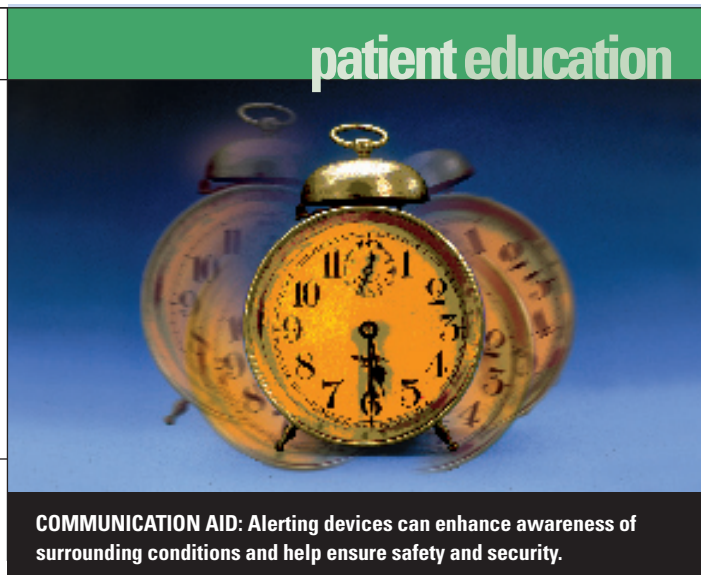
Baby alarms help parents/caregivers know when their baby is crying. To know more about a baby's actions, an alarm with flashing lights and/or a vibrating pad are alerting options. A microphone near the baby detects sounds, which then are used to trigger the selected alerting device.

Pagers may be used to alert people when different activities are occurring. A pager activating unit is connected to one of several devices, such as a telephone, doorbell, smoke alarm, or weather alert. The pager may be programmed to display a different symbol for different alerting devices.

Doorbells may be connected with radio transmitters so that a deaf person may carry a receiver that is activated when the doorbell rings. Some families find it helpful to use a simple table lamp or other home light that flashes when the doorbell is activated.

Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors for hearing-impaired people not only emit a very loud sound but also produce a visual strobe-flash to enhance the alerting process. Additionally, many have a remote vibrating unit that can be placed under a sleeping person's pillow to provide tactile vibrations.

Alarm clocks offer a wide range of alerting mechanisms,



COMMUNICATION AID: Alerting devices can enhance awareness of surrounding conditions and help ensure safety and security.

including flashing lights, vibration systems or a combination of alerts. Additionally, there are wrist watches that vibrate and may have programmable alarm settings.

Weather alerting devices help to ensure safety. Many use loud sounds as an alert, and some use visual flash/strobe alerts to warn of impending danger.

Intruder alerts are frequently installed by businesses that specialize in home security. There are a wide variety of ways a homeowner may be alerted to an intrusion. Working with your audiologist and home security specialist provides an effective way to help ensure a safe home.

Equipment or machinery malfunction alerts may be installed to alert a homeowner when equipment is malfunctioning. These types of alerts can be very important when it is necessary to monitor equipment being used with a critically ill family member. They also can be used to monitor home equipment, such as equipment for power supply, water or sewage.

Purchase Considerations

The best way to obtain ADs is to begin by consulting your audiologist, who is prepared to work to find the alerting systems that best meet your needs and determine how these devices can be most effectively integrated into your lifestyle.

It is important that all critical areas of your home be effectively managed for safety and security. ADs also can be important away from the home, such as in a motel/hotel room, car or other travel environments. When using public transportation, be sure the carrier is aware of any equipment you are carrying and that you understand what restrictions you are required to follow. When traveling to foreign countries, be sure that your ADs are equipped to work with the host country's power system, as ADs may work on alternating current (AC), direct current (DC), or be adaptable to both.

It is important to work with your audiologist to help ensure that you can communicate fully and that no area important to your safety is missed. An effective AD program is one that will meet all your needs. 💰

