



Greater Houston
Chapter

Toolbox Talk

Crane Hand Signals

Company Name _____

Presenter Name/Job Title _____ Date _____

When hand signals are to be used to direct the crane operator, the signal person must always be visible to the operator, and both persons must be comfortable with the meaning of all signals that might be used. The most commonly used hand signals for directing crane lifting operations will be addressed in this meeting. Special operations may require alterations or even new signals. If the operation requires one signal person to direct the lift of the load and another signal person to direct the receiving of the load, there must be another signal to tell the operator to shift attention to the second signal person. When the operator loses sight of the load during part of the movement of the load, the operation is called a "blind pick" or "operating in the blind". For these operations, part of the signal should be controlled by radio or remote camera. A signal person and an operator make up a most important team. The lives of other workers depend on the skills of such teams. The rigger is an equally important member of this team, but that operation is a topic for another meeting. The operator should never respond to a signal from someone who is not the signal person; the only exceptions may be the signals for an Emergency Stop.

HOIST (RAISE THE LOAD BY REELING IN THE LOAD LINE)

- Extend the right arm straight out and raise the forearm to vertical, forefinger pointing up, then move hand in small horizontal circle.

LOWER (THE LOAD BY PLAYING OUT THE LOAD LINE)

- Extend the right arm downward, forefinger pointing down and then move hand in small horizontal circle.

RAISE BOOM

- Extend right arm straight out, fingers closed and thumb pointing upward.

LOWER BOOM

- Extend right arm straight out, fingers closed and thumb pointing downward.

SWING

- Extend right arm away from body, point with finger in direction of swing of boom.

STOP

- Right arm extended down with wrist bent and palm down and open.

EMERGENCY STOP

- Right arm extended, palm down, then move hand rapidly right and left.

TRAVEL

- (Both tracks, crawler cranes only) Use both fists in front of body, making a circular motion about each other to indicate the direction of travel - forward or backward.

DOG EVERYTHING

- Clasp hands in front of the body.

RAISE BOOM & LOWER LOAD

- Extend right arm with thumb pointing up and then flex fingers in and out as long as load movement is desired.

LOWER BOOM & RAISE LOAD

- Extend right arm with thumb pointing down and then flex fingers in and out as long as load movement is desired.

KEEP ALL PARTS OF A CRANE (Structure, All Lines, Blocks, Hooks and the Load) A MINIMUM OF 15 FEET FROM ALL ELECTRICAL LINES

EMPLOYEES WORKING AROUND CRANES

- Stay alert when working near any crane operation – operators are usually focused upon the load, the boom and the signals
- Do not stand or work below a suspended load
- Stay clear of the counter weight – the crane operator cannot see anything behind the cab

Further Safety Recommendations by Meeting Attendees

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Meeting Attended By:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____