

Agricultural Hand Signals

Texas Department of Insurance
Division of Workers' Compensation
Workplace Safety

HS94-038D (7-09)

Goal

This program provides information to agricultural personnel on standardized hand signals to be used when voice communications are impossible due to distance or noise.

Objective

Personnel will be able to use hand signals to communicate when working around or with machinery.

Background

The American Society of Agricultural Engineers developed a standard agricultural hand signal system when it became obvious that accidents were occurring due to misunderstanding verbal communication or not being able to hear verbal communication due to distance or noise. Hand signals can prevent accidents and save time. They are easy and simple to learn.

Procedure



Stop the Engine
(*Apague el motor*)

Move your right arm across your neck from left to right in a "throat cutting" motion.



Come to Me
(*Venga a mí*)

Note: May mean "come help me" in an emergency
Raise arm vertically overhead, palm to the front, and rotate in a large horizontal circle.

Speed it Up
(*Aumente la velocidad*)

Raise hand to shoulder, close fist, and thrust fist upward to full extent of arm and back to shoulder rapidly several times.



Start the Engine
(*Arranque el motor*)

Move arm in a circle at waist level as though you were cranking an engine.





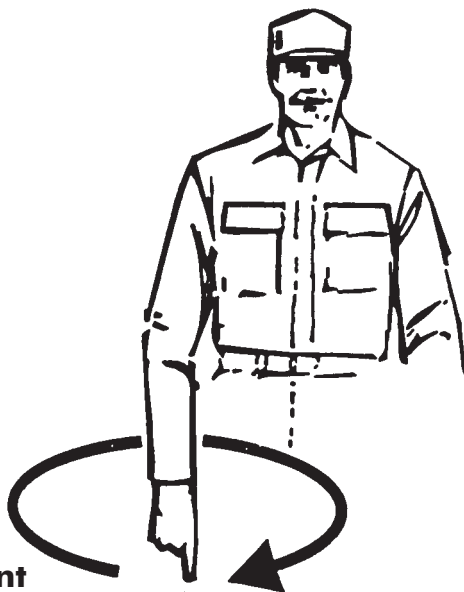
Slow it down; decrease speed
(Disminuya la velocidad)

Arm extended horizontally sideways, palm down and wave arm downward a minimum of 45 degrees several times; keep arm straight. Don't move arm above horizontal position.



Raise equipment
(Levante el equipo)

Point upward with forefinger, while making a circle at head level with your hand.



Lower equipment
(Baje el equipo)

Point toward the ground with forefinger of one hand while moving the hand in a circular motion.



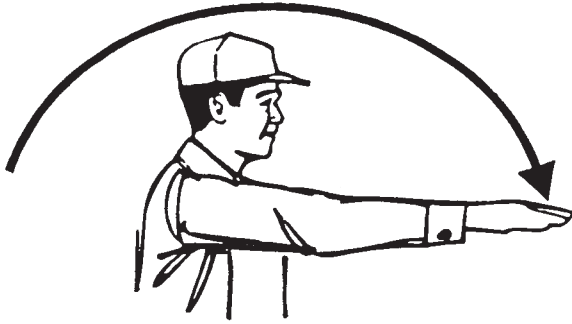
This far to go
(Falta esta distancia)

Put hands in front of your face, palms facing each other. Move hands together or further apart to indicate how far to go.



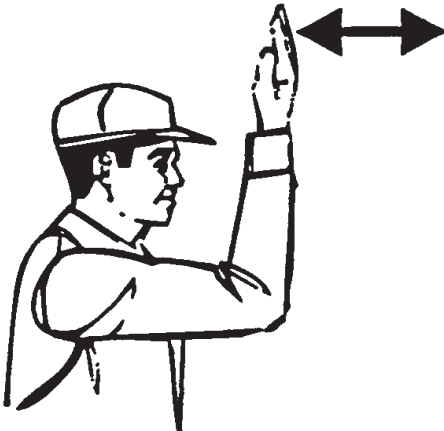
Stop
(Alto)

Raise hand upward, arm fully extended, palm to the front. Hold that position until the signal is understood.



Move out; take off
(*Salga-Parta*)

Face desired direction of movement, extend arm straight out behind you, then swing it overhead and forward until it is straight out in front of you with palm down.



Move toward me; follow me
(*Muévase hacia mí-Sígame*)

Look toward the person or vehicle you want moved. Hold one hand in front of you, palm facing you and move your forearm back and forth.

Review

1. Hand signals are most effective at what time?
 - a. After you've had your morning coffee.
 - b. When voice communications are impossible due to noise or distance.
 - c. In the early afternoon.
 - d. When you are driving on a very rough road.

The Texas Department of Insurance,
Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI, DWC)
E-mail resourcecenter@tdi.state.tx.us
or call 1-800-687-7080 for more information.

2. The hand signal for "come to me" might also mean _____.
 - a. Give me your money.
 - b. Stop looking at me.
 - c. Don't chase the chickens.
 - d. Come help me.
3. The hand signal for "start the engine" is done by _____.
 - a. Moving the hand in a circle at waist level.
 - b. Moving the arm across the neck from left to right.
 - c. Pumping the fist from shoulder to overhead rapidly.
 - d. Placing the hands behind head and wiggling hips.
4. Holding your arm horizontally sideways, palm down, and waving the arm downwards several time indicates _____.
 - a. The machine operator needs to slow down.
 - b. A flock of birds is obstructing your view.
 - c. The music is too loud.
 - d. There are people you know approaching.
5. Pointing toward the ground with the forefinger of one hand while moving the hand in a circular motion would indicate _____.
 - a. The toilet is flushing correctly.
 - b. There are unauthorized people in the area.
 - c. The job is going over budget.
 - d. Lower the equipment.

Answers:

1. b 2. d 3. a 4. a 5. d

Resources

The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI, DWC) Resource Center offers a workers' health and safety video tape library. Call (512) 804-4620 for more information or visit our web site at www.tdi.state.tx.us.

Disclaimer: Information contained in this training program is considered accurate at time of publication.

Safety Violations Hotline
1-800-452-9595
safetyhotline@tdi.state.tx.us