



## MSHA's Accident Prevention Program Miner's Tip

**SAFETY  
IS A  
VALUE!**

### Hand Signals for Lifting Equipment

**Category :** General Safety; Haulage and Transportation; and Maintenance

**Mine Type:** All Mines

A miner from Nevada recommends that all types of cranes and lifting equipment should be operated with one set of standard hand signals. This miner worked in several industries and became very concerned because of the many different hand signals being used from one industry to the other and from one type of hoisting machine to another (i.e. overhead cranes vs. mobile cranes).



The most widely accepted standard hand signals are found in the ANSI/ASME B30 standards. **Remember**, since crane and hoisting equipment design and operation vary, standards are customized for each particular type of equipment and job application. **You should use the specific standards which apply to your machine and the lifting task at hand.** Please use the link below to access a chart of basic standard hand signals for controlling crane/hoisting operations. Illustrations of the standard hand signals should be posted at the job site and on every piece of lifting/hoisting equipment. The topic of "hand signals for lifting equipment" should be included in task, hazard and new miner training classes.

 [Basic Standard Hand Signals](#) (PDF file).

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**Remember - Safety is a Value that you can LIVE with!**

# Know Your Hand Signals!

## Basic Standard Hand Signals for Cranes and Hoisting Equipment



**HOIST:** With forearm vertical, and forefinger pointing up, move hand in small horizontal circle.



**LOWER:** With arm extended downward, forefinger pointing down, move hand in a small horizontal circle.



**RAISE BOOM:** Arm extended, fingers closed, thumb pointing upward.



**LOWER BOOM:** Arm extended, fingers closed, thumb pointing downward.



**EXTEND BOOM:** Both fists in front of body with thumbs pointing outward.



**RETRACT BOOM:** Both fists in front of body with thumbs pointing toward each other.



**SWING:** Arm extended, point with finger in direction of desired boom swing.



**STOP DOG EVERYTHING:** Clasp hands in front of body.



**MOVE SLOWLY:** Use one hand to give any motion signal and place the other hand motionless in front of the hand giving the signal.



**TRAVEL:** Arm extended forward, hand open and slightly raised, make pushing motion in direction of travel.



**USE MAIN HOIST:** Tap fist on head; then use regular signals.



**USE WHIP LINE (AUXILIARY HOIST):** Tap elbow with one hand; then use regular signals.



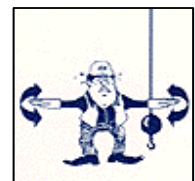
**STOP:** Arm extended, palm down, move arm back and forth horizontally.



**RAISE THE BOOM AND LOWER THE LOAD:** With arm extended, thumb pointing up, flex fingers in and out as long as load movement is desired.



**LOWER THE BOOM AND RAISE THE LOAD:** With arm extended, thumb pointing down, flex fingers in and out as long as load movement is desired.



**EMERGENCY STOP:** Both arms extended, palms down, move arms back and forth horizontally.

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