

Toolbox talk - Safety Tips for Signal Persons (Part 2)

Signal persons have a lot of safety responsibility. Inappropriate actions on the part of the signal person or failure to act when necessary can result in severe injuries to workers on the site. Here are some general safety tips covering electronic transmission signals, voice signals and hand signals.

- Immediately before the lift operation begins be sure to test all electronic transmission signal devices such as radios and telephones.
- Make sure that signal transmissions go through a dedicated channel.
- Before the lift operation begins, and once the dedicated channel has been selected, communicate with the operator on that channel to ensure that good communication is taking place.
- When using voice signals, communicate with the operator, and lift director if there is one, before the lift operation begins. Make sure you agree on the voice signals that will be used.
- Be sure that each voice signal includes the following elements in this order:
function (hoist, boom, etc.) direction;
distance and/or speed; and
function stop command.
- Before starting the lift operation using voice signals, make sure that the operator speaks and understands the language you will be using.
- When using hand signals, it is often helpful to have the Standard Method hand signal chart posted in the hoisting area.