

Job site: _____
 Foreman: _____

Date: _____
 G.C. _____

SMOHIT Safety Sense

Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry

Hand Signals for Crane Operations

- The following is a list of the most commonly used hand signals for crane operations. There may be special operations that require adaptations of these basic signals. When using hand signals, be sure to keep eye contact with the operator at all times, and make sure both of you understand all the signals. Coworkers lives depend on your skills. One wrong signal could cause a serious injury or death.
- Hoist—extend right arm straight out to the side, bend elbow upward, forefinger pointing up, and move hand in small horizontal circle.
- Lower—extend right arm straight out to the side, bend elbow downward, forefinger pointing down, and move hand in small horizontal circle.
- Raise boom—extend right arm straight out to the side, bend elbow upward, fingers closed, and thumb pointing upward.
- Lower boom—extend right arm straight out to the side, bend elbow downward, fingers closed, and thumb pointing downward.
- Swing—extend right arm straight out to the side, point with finger in direction of swing of boom.
- Stop—extend arms straight out to the side, open palms downward.
- Emergency stop—extend arms straight out to the side, open palms downward, and move hands rapidly right and left.
- Travel (both tracks, crawler cranes only)—extend arms straight out in front of body, bend elbows inward, make fists with both hands putting one fist over the other. Roll fists in a circular motion, either forward or backward to indicate the direction of travel.
- Dog everything—extend arms straight out in front of body, and interlace fingers.
- Refer to the SMOHIT hand signals chart to review common hand signals.

Instructor Tips

- **While reading the common hand signals for crane operations, demonstrate each signal, or have workers volunteer to demonstrate each hand signal.**
- **Remind non-signaling workers they must still be alert when working near cranes, staying clear of the counter balance and never working under a moving load.**
- **Provide workers with a copy of the SMOHIT hand signals chart.**

Name	Init.	Name	Init.
1.		13.	
2.		14.	
3.		15.	
4.		16.	
5.		17.	
6.		18.	
7.		19.	
8.		20.	
9.		21.	
10.		22.	
11.		23.	
12.		24.	