

Job site: _____
 Foreman: _____

Date: _____
 G.C. _____

SMOHIT Safety Sense
 Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry

Helicopter Signals

- Helicopter signals vary slightly from crane signals. The following are basic helicopter operating signals:
 - Clear to start engine—extend right arm above head and move arm in a circular motion.
 - Move upward—extend arms straight out to the side, palms up and open, moving arms in a sweeping, upward motion.
 - Move downward—extend arms straight out to the side, palms down and open, moving arms in a pushing, downward motion.
 - Hold hover—extend arms straight out to the side and clench fists.
 - Clear to take off—extend both arms above head in the direction of takeoff.
 - Move right—extend left arm straight out to the side, sweeping right arm in an upward position over head.
 - Move left—extend right arm straight out to the side, sweeping left arm in an upward position over head.
 - Move forward—extend arms forward and wave helicopter toward you in a collecting motion.
 - Move rearward—extend arms downward at sides with palms facing outward, using a shoving motion, as if pushing the helicopter away.
 - Land here, my back is to the wind—extend arms straight out in front of body, standing with the wind to your back.
 - Shut off engine—hold right hand under neck with palm down.
 - Release sling load—extend left arm downward at your side, and bring right arm across to contact left forearm with right hand.
 - Wave off/Do not land—extend arms straight out to the side and wave both hands overhead and back to sides repeatedly.

Instructor Tips

- **While reading the common hand signals for helicopter operations, demonstrate each signal or have workers volunteer to demonstrate each hand signal.**
- **Remind non-signaling workers they must stay alert when working near helicopters.**
- **Explain that radio communication is recommended, and hand signals should be used as a backup when radio communication is not possible.**

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