

SUGGESTIONS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH THE CRANE OPERATOR

- **The signaler must always:**
 - Be in clear view of the crane operator.
 - Have a clear view of the load and the equipment at all times.
 - Keep people outside the load travel path.
 - Ensure the load does not pass above people.
 - Keep the crane away from power lines.
 - Watch for other overhead hazards that could endanger the load or people nearby.
- **Duties of the signalman:**
 - Only one person shall be designated as a signalman.
 - The signalman AND operator must be familiar with the Hand Signals being used.
 - The signalman must always be able to observe the load and other workmen at all times.
 - The signalman must always be in plain view of the crane operator.
- **Multiple signalers:**
 - There should be only one designated signaler at a time-more than one will only confuse the operator.
 - If signalers are changing frequently, the one in charge should be clearly visible as the person with signaling authority.
 - Wearing a bright vest or different colored hard hat will help the crane operator quickly identify who is currently of signaling.
- **Radios in place of hand signals:**

- The use of radios is gaining popularity in today's workplace.
- Reliable voice activated headsets are preferred because they keep hands free for both the crane operator and signaler.
- Cautions regarding radio use may include the following:
 - Awareness of any explosive devices in general area (radio transmissions have been known to cause premature detonation of explosives that use electric detonators).
 - Other electronics (potential for interference)
 - Crane control electronics for crane functions (potential for interference).
- Other radios nearby operating on the same frequency.
- Some basics when using radio commands:
 - Discuss lift plan with operator.
 - Use a secure frequency free of distracting chatter.
 - Use first names not titles i.e. "Jim" as opposed to "crane operator".
 - Commands names should be same as the hand signal names:
 - Use whipline.
 - Boom down, hold load.
 - Boom up.
 - Etc.
 - Once a lift has begun the signaler should never break communication with the operator, this is referred to as "constant communication".

- Never unkey the mic while the load is moving. The signaler should repeat the command to let the operator know everything is alright -slowly down; slow, slow.....
- If signaler breaks communications (unkeys mic) the operator should stop immediately.
- The crane operator should only continue when regular communications with the signaler is re-established.
- If the operator need to talk to the signaler he should stop and give 1 blast of the horn to alert the signaler.
- The signaler can them unkey the mic so the crane operator can talk with him.