

Excavator hand signals

Explain dangers

Excavators, backhoes, and other types of heavy equipment can cause injuries and fatalities to equipment operators and workers on foot during trenching operations.

Workers have also suffered serious injuries from being struck by the load carried by this type of equipment.

Identify controls

If a person could be endangered by equipment or its load, a signaller must be used to help the operator.

The operator and the signaller must decide on a way to communicate with each other. Often the best way is to use clear, standard hand signals.

Here are some standard hand signals for working with excavators.

Demonstrate

Demonstrate the hand signals below. Ask your crew to practise them so that they become natural.

Hand out IHSA's pocket-sized *Excavator Hand Signals Card* (V015).

Load Up  1	Load Down  2	Swing Left  3	Swing Right  4
Turn Left  5	Turn Right  6	Travel  7	This Far To Go  8
Everything Slow  9	Stop Engine  10	Stop  11	Emergency Stop  12
Boom Up  13	Boom Down  14	Telescope in  15	Telescope Out  16
Dipper In  17	Dipper Out  18	Counter Rotate  19	Counter Rotate  20
Open Bucket  21	Close Bucket  22	Dog Everything  23	NO RESPONSE SHOULD BE MADE TO UNCLEAR SIGNALS