




Arborists' Hand Signals

<p>Okay / Yes / All clear / Go / Start</p>  <p>Arms extended outwards from side of body</p>	<p>Stop / No</p>  <p>Single arm raised above head</p>	<p>Emergency Stop / Danger</p>  <p>Both arms raised above head</p>
<p>Switch off machinery</p>  <p>Hand / finger moving across throat</p>		<p>Watch out / Stand clear</p>  <p>Tap helmet</p>
<p>Send up chainsaw*</p>  <p>Flat level hand held out and flat upright hand moved up and down against it, as if sawing it</p>	<p>Send up rope</p>  <p>Flat palm held up with fist moving back and forth against it</p>	<p>Send up water / drink</p>  <p>Thumb against mouth, tilt head back</p>

Arborists' Hand Signals

Let it run	Winch up / Take in slack	Winch down / Let out slack
		
Hands/arms rolling one over the other	Arm raised above head and finger circling	Arm pointing to ground and finger circling
*Fingers can be used to indicate which saw (e.g. 440. Four fingers shown and repeated once and a circle made), or hands held apart to indicate big saw/little saw.		

Notes

This list of signals is not exhaustive but serves to provide a basic set of standard signals for all staff to communicate effectively.

These hand signals are drawn from a number of sources, and as far as possible are standardised with other industries (e.g. Crane Operators). In this way consistent and clear communication can be established between all operatives of different industries on the same site. In these circumstances, it is important, therefore, that ground operatives use these signals. Climbers should use signals previously agreed amongst the team and conducive to their work-position (for example a clear 'thumbs-up' may replace the 'okay/yes/clear' sign).

- All communications should be discussed and agreed with all operators prior to work commencing.
- Where communication occurs over a large distance, gestures should be exaggerated.
- Signallers should be competent to make signs and trained in their use.
- Signallers must be able to see all operations without being endangered by them.
- Signallers' duties, while signalling, should be confined to just signalling, and nothing else.
- Signallers should wear high-visibility clothing.
- Where visibility AND hearing on-site are compromised alternative means of communication should be adopted (2-way radio etc.).
- Where both arms are used at the same time, they must be moved symmetrically and used for giving one signal only at any time.
- Irrespective of the system of hand signals chosen, it is important that they are used consistently throughout a firm or workplace.
- Good communication should not be substituted for experience – to a degree, experienced ground staff will be able to anticipate a climber's needs, and vice-versa.
- These hand signals may be used as an additional control measure as part of a risk assessment.

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