

# NUCA SafetyNews

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**CORRECTION:** The diagrams below are the most current hand signal charts for excavators and backhoes from the Construction Safety Association of Ontario.

## Hand Signals for Excavators and Backhoes

HOISTING Hand Signals <span style="float: right;">2008</span>					
Load Up 1	Load Down 2	Load Up Slowly 3	Load Down Slowly 4	Boom Up 5	Boom Down 6
Boom Up Slowly 7	Boom Down Slowly 8	Boom Up Load Down 9	Boom Down Load Up 10	Everything Slowly 11	Use Whip Line 12
Use Main Line 13	Travel Forward 14	Turn Right 15	Turn Left 16	Shorten Hydraulic Boom 17	Extend Hydraulic Boom 18
Swing Load 19	Stop 20	Close Clam 21	Open Clam 22	Dog Everything 23	NO RESPONSE SHOULD BE MADE TO UNCLEAR SIGNALS 24

Excavator Handsignals <span style="float: right;">2008</span>		
Swing Left	Swing Right	This Far To Go
Counter Rotate	Counter Rotate	Open Bucket
Close Bucket	Dipper In	Dipper Out
Emergency Stop	Stop Engine	NO RESPONSE SHOULD BE MADE TO UNCLEAR SIGNALS

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The safety of employees working around excavators and backhoes depends on their ability to communicate with the equipment operator. While two-way radios are becoming popular with construction companies, hand signals are still the most frequently used method of communication between operators and workers.

Before using hand signals, the equipment operator and the signal person must agree on a set of hand signals. It is best to adopt a standard set of hand signals and then ensure that all operators and individuals who may be responsible for giving hand

signals learn them. Keeping and/or posting laminated hand signal charts in jobsite trailers and equipment cabs is considered a good practice and will help operators and employees learn the standard signals. Here are some general rules regarding hand signals for excavators and backhoes:

- Signals should always be given by a person who clearly knows and understands what the signals mean and NO ONE ELSE. There should be only one designated signal person, except in circum-

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