



Central Zone Operations

Alpine - Barona - Bonita - El Cajon - Lakeside - La Mesa
Lemon Grove - San Miguel - Santee - Sycuan - Viejas
Heartland Communications

C-1.1 HAND SIGNALS

PURPOSE

Many forms of communication are utilized in the fire service. One of the oldest forms of communication, when verbal communication is impractical, has been the use of hand signals. In today's fire service, we often have equipment and personnel from different agencies working on the same incident. Considering this environment, the importance of standardized hand signals cannot be overlooked and must be recognized by all personnel. In an effort to accomplish this, the Central Zone has adopted four (4) standardized hand signals. They are water control, vehicle stop, vehicle backing left, and vehicle backing right. It is recommended to use radio commands in addition to hand signals when possible.

POLICY

Each agency may use additional hand signals for various scenarios; however, the signals shown below will be standardized within the Central Zone.

PROCEDURE

When utilizing hand signals, face the person that you wish to communicate with. Utilize clear and concise movement. Except for backing hand signals, the sender continues to signal until the person receiving the signal acknowledges by sending the same signal back. Example: If the engineer sends the signal to the hydrant person, "turn the water on" he/she continues to signal until the hydrant person signals back "turn water on".



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1) Water Control: “Call for Water”

The standardized signal is arms straight, with hands above the head.



Acknowledgement is the same signal repeated back.



2) Water Control: “Shut Down”

The standardized signal is straight arms crossing back and forth at knee level.





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3) Vehicle Stop

The standardized signal for STOP is both arms crossed at the chest.



4) Vehicle Left: Usually used when backing

The standardized signal is the left arm extended straight out from the side of the body with the right arm motioning towards the individual giving the signals.



5) Vehicle Right: Usually used when backing

The standardized signal is the right arm extended straight out from the side of the body with the left arm motioning towards the individual giving the signals.

